

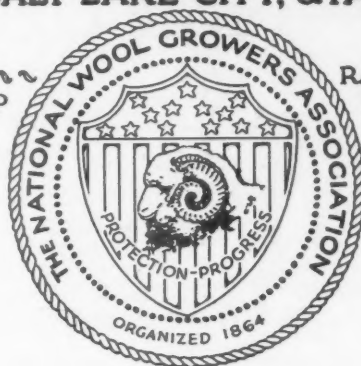
*Lucas* *Nov* *Wm. G.*

# The NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION  
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS OF  
AND ACTIVITIES OF SHEEP

TO NON MEMBERS - UNITED  
FOREIGN



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RAISERS ORGANIZATIONS

STATES & CANADA \$1.50 PER YEAR  
\$2.00 PER YEAR

Vol. XVIII—No. 1

January, 1928

## THE CONVENTION MONTH

A Time for Constructive Thinking and Plain Speaking

---

Arizona Wool Growers	- - - -	Phoenix—January 9
Oregon Wool Growers	- - - -	Pendleton—January 10
Washington Wool Growers	- - - -	Yakima—January 11-12
Montana Wool Growers	- - - -	Great Falls—January 13-14
Idaho Wool Growers	- - - -	Pocatello—January 16-17
Utah Wool Growers	- - - -	Ogden—January 18

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OGDEN—JANUARY 19-20-21



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The Denver Market in 1927 handled over three million head of live stock. Sales exceeded forty thousand head in one day. Receipts of over 20,000 cattle on several Mondays were cleaned up in rapid order at generally higher prices.

Denver was the only large market to show a substantial increase in cattle. Its cattle receipts increased 108,000 head or over 20%. It showed a good increase in sheep. The market again demonstrated it was one of the best points for sale of western cattle and sheep.

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SHIPMENTS THE PAST YEAR. WE ASSURE  
THEM EFFORTS TO MAKE DENVER A BIGGER  
AND BETTER MARKET FOR THEIR LIVESTOCK  
WILL BE CONTINUED.**



**Attend the National Western Stock Show  
January 14th to 28th, 1928**

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1928  
January, 1928

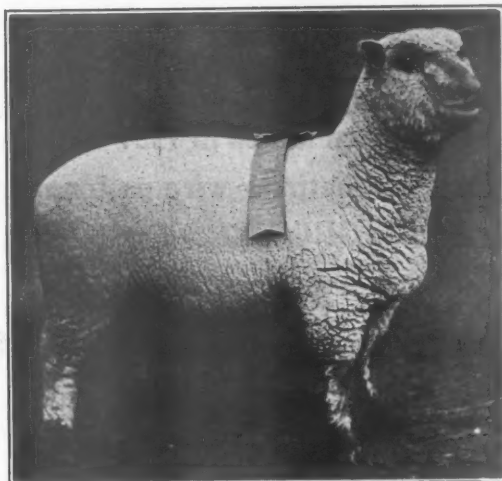
THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

3

# Superior Selling Service

## California's Pioneer Commission Firm

On Thursday, December 8, we sold this Southdown lamb, consigned to us by Metzger & Vaughn, Dixon, California, to the Western Meat Co. at \$5.00 a pound, a world's record price. The lamb weighed 100 lbs. and brought the owner \$500.00. He also won \$15.00 in premium money as first prize lamb, a total of \$515.00.



**\$5.00**  
per pound  
**WORLD'S**  
**RECORD**

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**PACIFIC**  
**COAST**  
**RECORD**



On Thursday, December 8, we sold this Shorthorn steer, bred and fed by the Thos. B. Dibblee Estate, owners of Rancho San Julian, Santa Barbara County, California, to the Standard Packing Co. of Los Angeles at public auction for \$1.75 per pound, a new high record price for a steer on the Pacific Coast. This steer weighed 1140 lb., brought the owner \$1994.00, and premium money as first prize 2-year-old amounting to \$25.00, a total of \$2019.00.

During the month of November, 1927, we sold for cash, \$1,069,000 worth of Live Stock

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Ship to the WOOL GROWERS COMMISSION CO.

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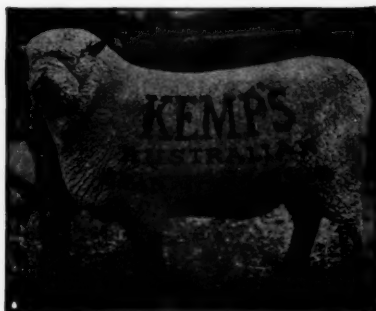
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- Will not mat the fibres or injure the wool.
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SALT LAKE CITY, UTAHFig. 1—Standard Rib  
Fig. 2—Double Rib Tag  
Fig. 3—Print tags before and  
after  
Fig. 4—Cinched after testing  
Fig. 5—Printing Press**Hotel Utah**

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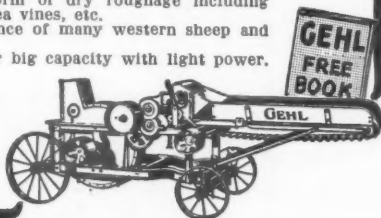
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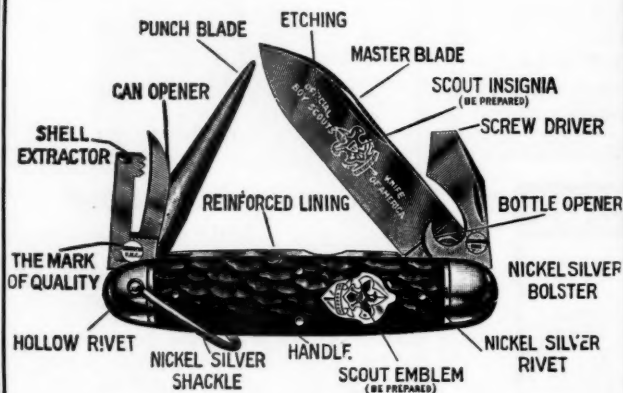
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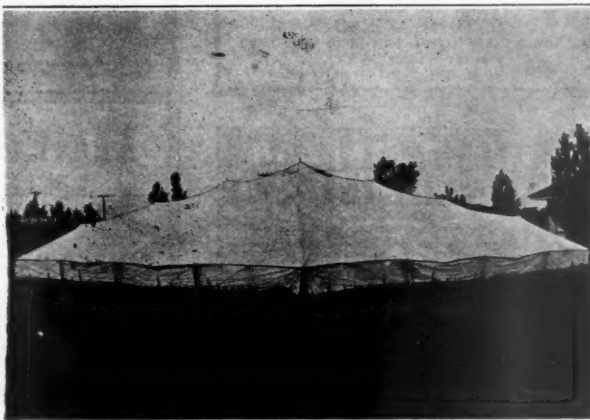
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303 McCornick Bldg., Salt Lake City

## The "Red Seal" Sheep Tent

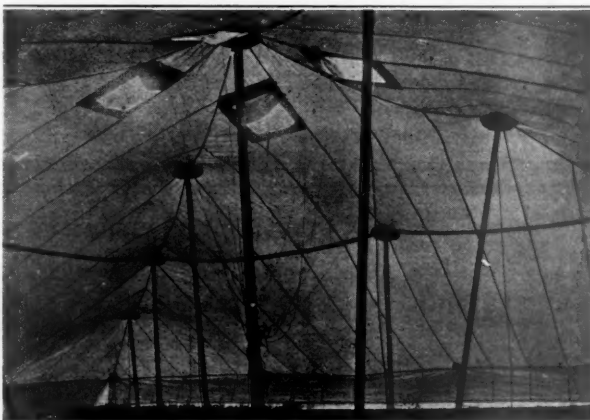
One of these wonderful portable canvas sheds will cost you less than five cents per head per season. Can you beat it? How many lambs could you have saved last season with one of our tents?

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Made of 12 or 14-ounce duck, as ordered. Fully hand roped with best manila rope. Fitted with adjustable ventilators in roof. Stakes and poles, as shown in cuts, are included. Wall 2 feet 6 inches high. Jump ropes (or hold down ropes) on each quarter and center pole.



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Tent is HIP ROOF style, which is the best style for strong winds.

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Prices greatly reduced—write us for them.

Orders must be placed now for spring shipment.

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Exclusive makers of "Red Seal Tents"

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CATTLE prices are higher today than at any time in history—with the exception of the war period. The purchasing power of the cattleman's dollar is back where it was in 1914.

Cattlemen have gone through some very lean years and they are entitled to some prosperous ones.

—but let's beware.

We must guard the live stock and meat industry against the two evils that grow out of high prices. These two dangers are:

1. A beef price situation which will limit consumption and bring about a reaction from the consumers.
2. Widespread expansion of short term feeding operations, creating a surplus of "warmed up" and "short fed" cattle and paving the way for a costly price break on that class.

Nobody profits when beef prices or cattle prices break. Let's prevent a situation that will lead to a break.

There is no shortage justifying a "fashion" of short feeding. Receipts of beef cattle at the principal markets for the first nine months of the year were within one-third of one per cent of the average for the last five years. Federal inspected slaughter for the same period was 3.25 over the five-year average.

Let's keep the cattle and meat business sound.

*F. Edgar White*  
President

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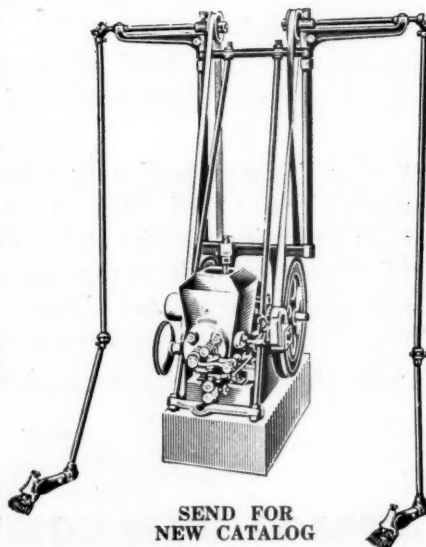
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Two machines complete with 2-H.P. engine and power grinder. Two men and a Little Wonder can shear 400 sheep a day. Strongly constructed engine, simple to operate and a wonderful power plant.

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# THE NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

VOL. XVIII

JANUARY, 1928

NUMBER I

## NATIONAL WOOL GROWER

Published Monthly by the National Wool Growers Association Company, (Inc.)  
F. J. HAGENBARTH, President

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EDITOR.....F. R. MARSHALL  
ASSISTANT EDITOR.....IRENE YOUNG  
Salt Lake City, Utah.

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## THE EDITOR'S BOX

### A Lamb Surplus:

While the wool situation of 1928 already is quite well made, the same cannot be said of the lamb markets. In fact, there were some things about the course of prices last year that have not satisfactorily been explained on the basis of the facts respecting the supply. The prices received by the range men furnished some margin of profit in a season of very favorable feed conditions that produced good weight and finish, and markets were much more stable than usual, in fact so very stable that they failed to advance under the lighter receipts in the period of shipping from corn fields and feed lots.

While there is a good distance to go before the United States wool production becomes equal to consumption, the situation is different in respect to lambs. Present home supply and demand are nearly balanced. The import duty of four cents per pound restricts entrance of foreign supplies to a small volume, but material increase in domestic supply inevitably will produce a surplus unless the domestic demand also is enlarged. The exporting of a part of our lamb production cannot be done at a profitable price. The low costs in Europe of supplies from the southern hemisphere prevent that.

### The Growers' Choice:

The certain increase in native lamb production and the very probable increase in the range states this year present a dilemma with three horns from which producers may choose. First, they may remain inactive and accept whatever low price results from an increased supply with an ordinary demand, hoping and taking the chance that conditions in production will be so favorable as to permit a profit from a lowered selling price. If wool values are strong they lend support to lamb prices, the higher pelt value adding to live weight appraisal and lowering the

cost of dressed meat and putting the packer in a better position to secure a profit even in low dressed meat markets. With lower wool prices and larger lamb crops the policy of inaction could only result in bankruptcy.

Second, they can agitate and resolve to limit production to present demand. There is no prospect that this could be done and to attempt it would be to claim that the sheep industry should never develop beyond its present proportions. Whether or not growers welcome larger crops, they are inevitable, entirely independent of whether publicity attaches to movements calculated to pass the increased supply into consumption at steady prices. That horn of the situation is not a real one and if producers do not elect quiescently and implicitly to place their interests in the hands of the public or to ask the packers to solve the problem, there remains only the plan of developing demand. The beginning made on this line last year plainly shows that with comparatively small expenditures, great increases in carcass purchases of middle western retailers can be obtained and held.

### Association Work, and Dues:

A full discussion of the lamb situation during the Butte convention last year showed a consensus of opinion in favor of inauguration of work to increase demand. The results of the initial and test efforts subsequently made were satisfactory and encouraging. The efforts to collect funds for this purpose through the railroads and market agencies have failed. The immediate question before the industry is to install methods of collecting the amounts needed to support organized effort to develop the demand for lamb. General conditions and prospects in the meat trade make the coming year peculiarly attractive for such work. The feeders of Nebraska and Colorado are deeply concerned and can be counted upon to



help, but the growers are better organized and should lead.

There is small prospect of securing support for the organization work that is called for except by direct payments of dues to state and national organizations. Readiness to pay for such service is a fair test of the individual producer's faith and interest in his organization and his own business. The producers who best know the market situation and who understand wool growers' associations favor the continuation on a larger scale of the work begun last year by the National Wool Growers Association and the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

#### 1928 Reverses

##### Course of Wool Prices

At the opening of the year there are indications that the wool market will reverse the course that was followed in 1926 and 1927. In those years the early contract prices were above what was paid at shearing time, except in Texas and in a few cases in Montana. Students of stock exchange and other market statistics usually agree that only one rule can be relied upon, that a market never does the same thing twice in succession. Even this rule was broken by the repetition in 1927 of the course of the 1926 wool prices (in the West) and by the early winter lamb prices of the same two years.

After two wool years of lowering prices, as paid in the producing states, a large number of growers became anxious to effect early sales and embraced the first opportunity to contract their 1928 clips, then to find later sales being made at materially higher prices. The speculative attractiveness of clips at prices which many growers were willing and anxious to accept appears to have been so great that discerning dealers have been ready to stock up at prices above those of the earliest contracts. Wool dealers are not infallible. As a group they made a mistake on 1925 wools, but not in any other year. The cause of 1920 events was not in the wool trade and that year's experience suggests nothing for guidance of either wool growers or dealers. The dealers' record as to fallibility is still very, very much better than that of the growers as a group and it still can be counted that the dealers' judgment of the state of

the market at the time they will resell their purchases is much better than the judgment of the growers who compete with each other to sell and whose asking price too often is based upon what they received last year, or what neighbors have received.

#### Anticipation and Preparation:

The large activity in future wools is based upon the fact that growers were ready to accept prices below corresponding foreign values. If, as Boston now anticipates, market prices shall reach a parity with those of foreign markets a large element of speculative interest will have been eliminated and the general trend of values made more stable and at a higher point. The peculiar sensitiveness of wool to variations in supply and demand always needs to be reckoned with, though at present demand is strengthening and supply is not increasing materially in any quarter; in fact there is a serious decrease in Australian production.

After all, and notwithstanding learned remarks regarding lack of operation of the law of supply and demand, it is the relation of present demand to visible supply that has given confidence in future prices to those capable men who make it their sole business to know and interpret the conditions and tendencies in the world wool trade. The present extent of competition among buyers is not so great or so helpful as would result from a permanent method of orderly selling by consignment which the association's committee on wool marketing urges upon the growers. The present heavy volume of contracting may delay progress toward better selling, but it should be recognized that good market conditions afford a better opportunity than can be looked for in a period of falling or uncertain prices in which producers are forced to consign and find themselves without real representation at the market. Preparedness for adversity can best be made during a calm. A system that will work under all conditions is better than one that works doubtfully in favorable periods and which accentuates the causes that bring misfortune.

#### THE BEEF BOYCOTT

An early and not altogether glorious end came to the movement launched in Boston in December to force a lowering of prices of beef. Wholesale prices of western dressed beef sold in Boston had advanced during the summer and fall months. They had not advanced so much as had the price of top fat cattle at Chicago which were selling on foot in considerable numbers early in December at eighteen and nineteen cents with second grades in the neighborhood of fourteen cents. Apparently this latter class of cattle was chiefly supplied to Boston trade as highest carcass quotations were twenty six cents per pound at the high point.

Early in December the following statement was prominently displayed on signs and on printed table cards in hotels and restaurants of Boston:

#### THE BEEF SITUATION

The beef situation is very serious at present. Prices are higher and quality is poorer than at any time in many years. It is therefore recommended that the public refrain from ordering beef steaks or roast beef until such time as conditions improve and the quality and price is not prohibitive.

CITY OF BOSTON HOTEL ASSN.

The hotels and restaurants stopped buying beef for some days. Packers were near a panic and cut prices or reshipped their holdings in Boston branches. Fearful of how far the movement might spread purchases of top cattle were suspended though within a few days the best grades at Chicago returned to 17 cents and since have advanced to 18 cents. The supply of fancy cattle in feed lots is limited and shipments were stopped as soon as the prices were put down. In a few days the buyers were without the numbers of cattle needed to supply their best customers in other cities and competition was restored.

The situation served to show that agriculture is not as helpless as in former years, and to some extent can be active either in defense or offense. Secretary of Agriculture Jardine issued a statement in which he said, "The present prices for beef seem unduly high, only because they are compared with prices of the past few

(Continued on page 42)



# The Sixty-Third Annual Convention

## Ogden, Utah - January 19-20-21, 1928

A Time for Constructive Thinking and Plain Speaking

*Ogden is Ready with Entertainment and Accommodations that Will Please You*



*The Bigelow Hotel*

The Headquarters for the Sixty-third Annual Convention of the National Wool Growers Association will be at the Bigelow Hotel. Among the other good hotels in Ogden are the Marion, St. Paul, Healy, Community, Broom, National and Brigham.

### Convention Railroad Rates---One Fare and a Half

Tickets to Ogden and return can be purchased at the rate of one fare and a half at all points in twelve western states on these dates: Arizona and New Mexico, January 15-16-17; California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska (west of Sidney), Oregon, Washington and Wyoming, January 16-17-18; Utah, January 17-18-19.

Except in Utah and western Wyoming the tickets will be good for the return trip until January 29. Stopovers will be allowed only on the return trip and within the above limit. Tickets will be validated at the Ogden depot for the return trip.

### Subjects on the Program

The discussions and proceedings of the convention will center on the following subjects: The Demand for Lamb—How Quality Affects Lamb Prices—The Mutual Interests of Range Men and Lamb Feeders—Federal Legislation Affecting Live

Stock—State Laws on Taxation and Interstate Movement of Sheep—New Facts on Diseases of Range Sheep—Methods and Results of Cost Studies—Loans for Production and Orderly Marketing—Selling Wool to Mills on Growers' Accounts.

Every subject will be open for discussion from the floor after presentation by the speakers selected.

The National Wool Growers Association operates on democratic principles. Its acts and policies are determined by the membership. Four major committees will report separately to the conven-

tion their recommendations as to association action and policy after receiving the views and suggestions of all who are interested. A partial list of the membership of the committees is printed below. Further appointments will be announced at the opening session of the convention.

### Some of the Speakers

L. B. Palmer, President, Ohio Wool Growers Cooperative Association and of the Ohio State Farm Bureau.

J. H. Peterson, Pocatello, Idaho.

Forrest M. Taylor, Western Meat Co., San Francisco, California.

D. W. Hartzell, Lamb Demonstration Specialist

for National Wool Growers Association and the National Live Stock and Meat Board.

G. M. Houston, Lamb Feeder, Greeley, Colo.

Dr. George W. Stiles, Jr., U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

Prof. A. F. Vass, University of Wyoming.

### Ogden's Entertainment

The citizens of Ogden, through their Chamber of Commerce, have made unusual preparations for the entertainment of visiting wool growers. A special ladies' committee has arranged numerous receptions and sight-seeing trips for visiting ladies.

On Friday evening there will be a banquet with an excellent program of music and a few short talks by prominent persons acquainted with the sheep industry.

### Convention Committees

#### RESOLUTIONS

F. A. Ellenwood, California  
T. E. Pollock, Arizona  
Chas. Marshall, Colorado  
S. W. McClure, Idaho

C. H. Williams, Montana  
C. W. Griswold, Nevada  
F. L. Lee, New Mexico  
F. W. Falconer, Oregon

H. W. Harvey, Utah  
T. J. Drumheller, Washington  
K. H. Hadsell, Wyoming  
T. A. Kincaid, Texas

#### LAMB MARKETING

R. Rich, Idaho  
G. J. Cleary, California

Peter Pauly, Montana  
J. B. White, Utah

H. S. Coffin, Washington  
J. B. Wilson, Wyoming

#### WOOL MARKETING

F. J. Hagenbarth, Idaho  
A. A. Johns, Arizona  
Dr. E. E. Brownell, California

T. C. Bacon, Idaho  
J. E. Morse, Montana  
K. G. Warner, Oregon  
J. A. Hooper, Utah

J. M. Davis, Washington  
W. W. Daley, Wyoming  
Robert Massie, Texas

#### GRAZING

H. B. Embach, Arizona  
K. W. Chalmers, Colorado  
J. L. Driscoll, Idaho

W. G. Gilbert, Montana  
Vernon Metcalf, Nevada  
W. R. Morley, New Mexico  
J. H. Dobbin, Oregon

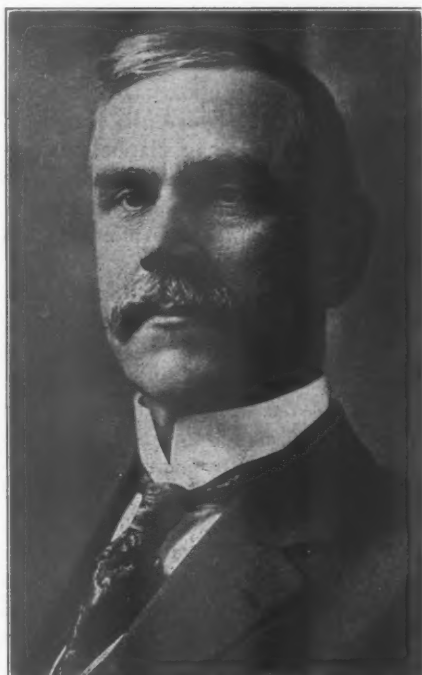
W. D. Candland, Utah  
F. M. Rothrock, Washington  
J. D. Noblitt, Wyoming

## Senator Smoot's Forest Grazing Bill

"To promote the development, protection, and utilization of national forest resources, to stabilize the livestock industry, and for other purposes." The foregoing is the title of Senate Bill 1969 introduced in Congress on December 19th, by Senator Reed Smoot of Utah and referred to the Committee on Public Lands and Surveys.

The Smoot bill relates only to grazing on national forests. It has no reference to public domain affairs. In this and in many other respects it differs from the bill reported by the Senate Committee on March 27, 1926, which bill was written following the completion of prolonged hearings at Washington, and in the form introduced, had the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior. Senator Smoot's bill contains only seven sections and covers seven pages. The first section is entitled "Declaration of Policy" and is designed to give forest grazing permits the security that can only be afforded by their recognition in federal law. The bill also would provide for a grazing board of five members, of whom two would be employees of the Department of Agriculture, two would represent the livestock industry and be selected by the Secretary from recommendations of stockmen's associations, while the fifth member would be chosen by the other four and would act as a representative of the public. It is in connection with the grazing fee question that Senator Smoot's bill differs most from other measures that have been presented to previous congresses. The scale of fees as it shall finally be approved by the Secretary of Agriculture to be charged in 1928 would be made the basis of charges for the indefinite future. With those fees as a basis the grazing board would meet annually and publish the next year's fees, raising or lowering them only in such degree as would be proportional to changes resulting from the annual recalculation of average market prices for cattle and lambs for the ten year period. The relationship of the 1928 fees to the average values prevailing in the livestock markets from 1918 to 1927 inclusive would be made permanent. This

provision if enacted into law would recognize the relationship which the Forest Service has sought to establish between fees on different classes of forest range and would permit only one-fourth of the proposed increase to come into effect. The grazing board would "render decisions in respect to appeals referred to it by the Secretary from organizations of



United States Senator Reed Smoot (Utah)

holders of grazing contracts in respect to the making and renewal of such contracts."

In its proposal to give to forest counties the bulk of the receipts from grazing, Senator Smoot's bill differs widely from previous suggestions and merits the consideration and support of stockmen and also of all residents of communities in the vicinity of forest reservations. Instead of returning to the counties for road and school purposes 25 per cent of the monies collected, this bill would return to the counties all of the monies collected for grazing after deducting the amount actually spent by the government for the administration of the grazing and a further 10 per cent of the collections to be

used for improving the forage, eradication of poisonous plants and predatory animals, and for providing trails and watering places, fences and corrals necessary for most efficient grazing by the stock entering the forests. This plan would give to western states and counties approximately one million dollars per year that would otherwise go to the federal treasury, or about three times the amount secured by the counties from grazing for last year.

### THE NEW FOREST GRAZING FEES

Some delay has occurred in the working out by the Forest Service of the scale of grazing charges to be placed in effect for the season of 1928.

The decision rendered on January 25, last, by Secretary of Agriculture Jardine in which he supported the main program of the Forest Service as presented to him in the Rachford-Casement scale of fees recognized the necessity of some further adjustments to remedy the inequalities in proposed fees as applying in different forests and different states. These adjustments have been considered during the past summer and in some cases slight additional reductions have been approved. In many cases the reviewing officials from the Washington office have held that no further alteration was possible. Apparently the consideration of further modification of fees as urged by stockmen and as called for under the meaning of the Secretary's orders has been based principally on the relations of fees themselves in different sections with less regard for the theoretical basis of private land grazing values which was so prominently used in the earlier appraisals.

The district offices have recommended to the Washington office the final adjustments on the basis of the full amount of the proposed increase as it would be in effect in 1931 under the plan of dividing the increase over four years. These recommendations from the field are being assembled and reviewed by the Washington officials, and it is understood they will be submitted to the Secretary of Agriculture early in February with recommendations for his final approval.

In the absence of action by Congress or further appeals from stockmen's organizations it seems likely that the Secretary will approve the recommendations from the Forest Service and place them in effect for the coming grazing season. One or two state organizations have indicated their intention of exercising their right of appeal to the Secretary in case the fees by the Chief Forester are in the same form as recommended from the district office.

The figures presented below include the final recommendations from the district offices for fees to be charged in the forests and sub-divisions shown. There are also included the present charges, those recommended by Mr. Rachford and also the Casement recommendations. The fees are expressed in cents per head per month.

#### Final Proposals of Sheep Grazing Fees in Eighteen National Forests

	Present Fees	Rachford Appraisal	Casement Fees	Last Proposal (Maximum)
<b>Oregon</b>				
Cascade .....	3.3	6.6	5.	4.
Crater .....	3.3	6.8	5.6	5.
Deschutes .....	3.3	4.4	4.5	4.75
Fremont .....	3.3	7.2	5.	4.5
Malheur .....	3.3	11.5	5.6	4.75
Mt. Hood .....	3.3	7.	6.	5.5
Santiam .....	3.3	6.3	5.4	5.5
Umatilla .....	3.3	11.6	5.6	4.75
Wallowa .....	3.3	11.6	5.4	4.5
Whitman .....	3.3	13.2	5.6	4.75
Umpqua .....	3.3	5.8	5.4	4.5
<b>Nevada</b>				
Nevada Forest—Divisions				
White Pine (East).....	2.5	4.3	3.3/4	3.3/4
White Pine (West).....	2.5	3.8	3.3/4	3.3/4
Quinn Canyon .....				
Ward Mountain .....	2.5	4.5	4.	3.3/4
Schell Creek .....	2.5	4.9	4.3/4	3.3/2
Mt. Maraja .....	2.5	4.7	4.3/4	3.3/4
Snake .....	2.5	4.7	4.3/4	3.3/4
Humboldt Forest				
Humboldt Div. ....	3.	5.4	4.3/4	4.
Santa Rosa Div. ....	3.	5.4	4.3/4	3.3/4
Ruby Division .....	3.	5.7	5.	4.3/4
Toiyabe Forest				
Paradise (Part) .....				
Paradise (Part) .....				
Shos-Toiyable .....				
Toquima .....	2.5	4.9	4.3/4	3.3/2
Monitor .....	2.5	5.	4.3/4	3.3/2
Toiyabe .....	2.5	4.9	4.3/4	3.3/2
<b>California</b>				
Modoc Natl. Forest..	3.	9.5	6.5	5.5
Mono Forest				
Main Forest .....	3.5	10.	7.	6.
Excelsior Div. ....	3.5	8.5	6.	5.
Plumas Forest				
Main Forest .....	3.5	9.5	7.	6.
East Side .....	3.5	9.5	7.	6.
Tahoe Forest				
Main Forest .....	3.5	9.5	7.	6.
E. Side Points.....	3.5	9.5	6.5	6.

#### HAMPSHIRE BREEDERS' MEETING

Hampshire sheep breeders met in their thirty-eighth annual meeting on November 30 at Chicago, with President Minnie W. Miller presiding. The treasurer's report showed that receipts for the fiscal year were \$15,628.29, of which total \$12,503.20 was received through registrations for 14,910 ewes and 7,213 rams. The total expenditures for the year were given as \$14,654.01 and the total resources of the association as \$11,366.88. This report and the secretary's statement were both accepted by the members as they were presented.

The new constitution that had been submitted by the late A. R. Hamilton, vice-president of the association, was presented to the members and adopted without change. Out of respect for the memory of Mr. Hamilton, the meeting stood in silence for one minute.

President Hagenbarth of the National Wool Growers Association spoke to the Hampshire breeders on the subject of flock registration and also urged their support of the work undertaken by the National Association to enlarge the outlet for market lambs by increasing the consumptive demand. Mr. B. E. Groom of North Dakota and Dr. McLaughlin also made remarks on the same subject.

The election of officers resulted in the re-election of Mrs. Minnie W. Miller as president and Mr. Comfort A. Tyler as secretary-treasurer, and the following board of directors:

H. C. Barlow, McKinney, Texas; Frank Brown, Carlton Ore.; Dr. H. C. Gardner, Anaconda, Mont.; MacMillan Hoopes, Wilmington, Del.; Mrs. Minnie W. Miller, Salt Lake City, Utah; W. F. Renk, Sun Prairie, Wis.; Comfort A. Tyler, ex-officio.

#### THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHROPSHIRE ASSOCIATION

Only one thing was lacking to make an entire success of the Shropshire activities at the recent International Live Stock Exposition. There weren't enough of our western people with us. We hope this condition will not prevail another year.

The informal dinner-meeting which followed the judging of the breeding classes was largely attended and greatly en-

joyed; the Shropshire Show was little short of ideal; North Dakota Aggie's Grand Champion Wether was a pure-bred Shropshire; business of our breeders has never been better than during the past year (and was free from any boom atmosphere); prospects for 1928 are fine. In fact Shropshire people had every reason to be happy during International week and they were happy and are still happy.

William F. Renk of Wisconsin was elected president; Dean W. C. Coffey of Minnesota, vice-president; Julia M. Wade was re-elected secretary-treasurer; and C. E. Grelle, Portland, Oregon, one of the best known Shropshire men of the great West, was elected to the board of directors for a term of three years.

The financial report for the year showed that a total of \$16,404.46 had been received during the year. Of this amount \$11,609.50 was received for registrations. Expenditures for the year were \$16,224.93. Cash balance on hand at the end of the fiscal year, October 1, 1927, totalled \$27,712.11.

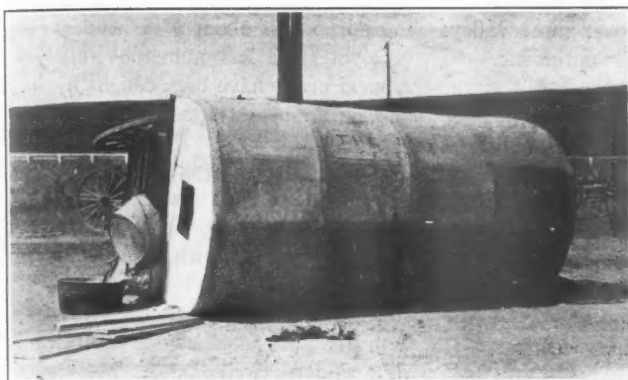
Julia M. Wade, Secretary

#### NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT PETERSEN

Mr. J. H. Petersen, the new president of the California Wool Growers Association, suggests in a succinct statement appearing in a recent issue of the California Wool Grower, how sheepmen can secure their share of the prosperity that seems assured to the country for 1928. His chief advice is that growers should strengthen their organization, through prompt payment of dues and "personal interest in all of the activities of the association." "All sheep owners," Mr. Petersen states, "must not forget \*\*\* that other factors may and will scheme to invade our well ordered house, and as individuals we are too weak to close our doors in safety. Our dependable defender is our good organization and the cost of it becomes a necessary item of our business expense."



## Around the Range Country



Wrecks in Idaho Sheep Camps—Cause unknown

The notes on weather conditions appearing under the name of the various states are furnished by J. Cecil Alter of the U. S. Weather Bureau, and based upon reports and publications of that bureau.

The letters are from interested readers. The Wool Grower welcomes and desires such communications from any part of the country and also invites comment and opinions upon questions relating to the sheep industry and statements of occurrences of importance and significance to wool growers.

### WYOMING

Cold weather prevailed, with more or less snowfall. Temperatures were rather severe at times, causing some shrinkage fairly generally, and nominal losses here and there. The winter ranges have been accessible most of the time, though there has been a great deal of feeding, with no feed shortages mentioned. Light winds slowing up wind-pumps, and the freezing of natural water have hampered some herds. Severe cold, with thin snow covering, was unfavorable for wheat. Probably one-third of the state's live stock are on feed at present.

#### Medicine Bow

December brought about the usual amount of snow with much wind, and temperatures as low as 27 below. Feed conditions on the winter range (December 28) are very spotted, only fair in favored sections and very poor in others. Usually 95 per cent of the ewes are fed

only during storm periods. Alfalfa hay is selling at \$7.50 a ton in the stack.

Some cross-bred wools have been contracted here recently at 34 and 35 cents (do not know the shrinkage). Homestead lands, used only for grazing, have been selling at \$1.25 an acre. It requires ten acres of this kind of land to carry one sheep. The assessed valuation on strictly grazing lands in this country is \$2 to \$2.50 an acre.

About ten per cent more ewes were bred this season compared with last.

Richard Bros.

#### Bertha

The weather of late (December 10) has been pretty cold, ranging around zero and as low as 25 below. There has not been much snow, however.

We had exceptionally good crops this year and it seems almost impossible to get them all in; I have about twenty acres of corn out yet.

Geo. A. Bergren.

### MONTANA

Temperatures have averaged abnormally low, and for several days conditions were rather severe, resulting in more or less suffering and shrinkage of live stock. Steady, heavy feeding has been necessary, and a good many sheep were lost or frozen, partly owing to snow covering the ground, and being badly blown. Snow over much of the winter range has been too deep for best foraging. Despite heavy consumption, feed remains plentiful as a rule.

### Ossette

We had all kinds of weather during November. It started snowing on the fourth of the month and has been at it more than less since. On this account the range (December 5) is in poor condition; it is nearly all crusted with very few bare spots. It is just about a straight feed from now on, though only about fifty per cent of the ewes are fed during the winter under normal conditions.

The most recent transactions in ewes were at the following figures: \$9 for lambs; \$12.50 to \$14 for yearlings; and \$7 to \$8 for the ordinary ewes of mixed ages. About forty per cent more ewes are being bred this season.

The county assesses grazing lands at \$5 to \$6 an acre, and in this district, such land will carry only five or six sheep to the acre.

E. C.

#### Deer Lodge

Since December 1st we have had clear and cold weather with six inches of snow. The feed situation on the range, however, is good. Practically all of the breeding ewes are fed here during the winter months. Alfalfa hay is selling at \$7.50 to \$8 a ton in the stack.

Little or no wool has been contracted in this section up to date (December 27).

Small lots of strictly grazing lands have been sold within the past months at \$4 an acre. The county valuation on such land is \$5 an acre.

Coyotes are fewer in number than usual;

apparently the high price of furs is the cause.

About ten to fifteen per cent more ewes were bred this year.

C. H. W.

#### Sheridan

There has been a considerable amount of wool sold here the last few days at prices ranging from 36 to 38 cents. Most of the growers are asking 40 to 42 cents, which we think they will get if they hold on for sixty days. The cross-bred clips that have been sold shrink around 55 per cent. Forty cents a pound has been paid for them. The fine wool, with a shrink of about 62 per cent, has brought from 36 to 38 cents.

December weather was very bad, but the range is in good condition. Most all the ewes are fed here for thirty to sixty days. The going price of alfalfa hay in the stack is \$8 a ton.

Breeding is being done on about the same scale as last season. Banks are loaning \$5 a head on ewes.

We are poisoning our ranges and are having very good results in destroying coyotes.

O. A. Schulz & Son.

#### Dell

December was a very cold month, but January has been fine so far (the 4th), and range feed is good. It is necessary, however, to feed all of the sheep here during the heavy winter months. Alfalfa hay is selling at \$9 a ton. It is estimated that there is a decrease of 15 to 20 per cent in the number of ewes bred this season.

Some wool has been sold in this section at 38 cents a pound.

Coyotes are decreasing due to the work, mainly, of private trappers.

I have not heard of any sales of strictly grazing lands recently, but the county valuation on such lands for taxation purposes is \$1.50 an acre.

A. E. Scott.

#### IDAHO

Livestock have done well throughout the state, being largely on feed. Cold weather late in the month necessitated increased feeding, and the Pocatello section reports a shortage of hay, but the condition is not yet serious. The desert or winter ranges are the best in many years,

and as snow has not been heavy, desert live stock have done unusually well. Wheat is wintering in good shape generally. Snow is becoming deep in the mountains, and with snow over most valleys farmers and stockmen are optimistic.

#### OREGON

Comparatively cold weather prevailed, with much frosty or freezing weather in the western portion. Precipitation has been ample for live stock in most sections, but more snow would help grain. Much live stock feeding has been necessary, but cattle and sheep have continued in thrifty condition.

#### Shaniko

The fore part of December the weather in this section was mild with an occasional rain, and grazing for sheep was exceptionally good. The latter part of the month about fifteen inches of snow fell with the thermometer ranging around zero, making good feeding weather.

All ewes are fed in this section during the winter months. Sheep are strictly grazed on the home range from five to six months during the year and the three winter months afford intermittent grazing. Grain hay is the principal hay used for feeding. It sells at ten dollars a ton for rye hay and fifteen dollars a ton for wheat and barley.

The number of ewes bred in this section is about the same as last year. The banks will loan fifty per cent on ewes.

Grazing land is assessed at three dollars an acre.

The Biological Department is doing good work and is holding the coyotes in check but really needs more hunters to handle the work.

No contracting of the 1928 wool clip has been done in this locality. I have knowledge of a recent sale of grazing land at four and a half dollars an acre. Grazing land in this neighborhood will support a cow to twenty acres and a sheep to three to four acres.

Schmidt Bros.

#### Plush

We have had lots of snow and rain until the last week and at present (December 8) the range feed is better than for many years past. Only about five or ten per cent of the ewes are fed here during the winter.

Sales of ewes made here this fall were on a \$10 basis for lambs and \$12 for yearlings, with \$5 and up taking those of mixed ages. The value of ewes for loaning purposes is about \$7 a head.

Coyotes are less numerous this year. A good many have been caught by local and government trappers.

Calvin T. Dent.

#### WASHINGTON

Moderate rains in western counties, and snows in eastern counties, with temperatures near or somewhat below normal generally, have not been hard on live stock, and conditions continue favorable with live stock interests. Live stock have thus wintered well so far. Most of the eastern counties are under snow, though more would be better for some grain sections.

#### St. John

I always read "Around the Range Country" and find it very interesting.

As this is about the center of the famous Palouse country the sheep business is confined to farm flocks, ranging from twenty-five to one hundred fifty head, mostly grade Hampshires. I keep about 100 head. I usually start feeding December 1 and continue until March.

I start lambing March 1 and at that time there is a little green feed which insures plenty of milk for the lambs. They have the run of the farm for a while and then are confined to their pasture, which is about twenty acres, through the summer.

The lambs are sold about July 1 and usually weigh about 90 pounds. At this time the pasture begins to dry, but by taking the lambs out, there is plenty left to carry the ewes until after harvest when they are turned into the wheat stubble until winter.

We usually are all through threshing in August, but owing to the heavy rains this fall some of us were lucky to get through at all. Eighteen inches of rain fell from September 1 to December 1. Since December 5 there has been a few inches of snow on the ground.

Alfalfa hay in stacks was very badly damaged, (about a 50 per cent loss) which is apt to make high-priced feed a little later. At present it is worth \$12.50.

I do not think there is any increase in

(Continued on page 41)

# Organization of Wool Growing Industry in Australia

By An Australian Wool Grower

Organization of the wool growing industry in Australia has reached a fairly efficient stage, though it is by no means so complete as many farseeing men in the industry consider to be not only possible but certain in the near future. It may be of interest to trace organization progress, which has a history of only thirty-seven years.

Up to 1890, in which year Australia's sheep flocks were at the highest pinnacle, numerically, that they have ever reached (over 120,000,000) the industry had never experienced the necessity for any definite form or organization. At that time, however, labor disputes reached a serious climax, and the shearing and maritime unions caused a crisis, first by the holding-up of shearing operations at the sheep stations, and secondly (when the pastoralists eventually managed to get their sheep shorn) by refusing to handle the wool at the ship's side.

The causes and events of that troublous period and the ultimate success of the wool growers in getting their wool shipped

to the markets of Great Britain and the Continent of Europe themselves constitute an interesting story, which is not pertinent to this article; it is sufficient to note that the Australian wool grower learned, by the example of the labor unions, the necessity for some kind of organization among themselves.

Within a few months unions of pastoralists were formed in the (then) "Colonies" of New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, and South Australia, and conferences held between them and the Shearers and Sheep-station Workers' Union led to settlement—for a period—of the issues which had caused the strikes of 1890-1891. A further conflict in 1894 temporarily dislocated the industry, but assisted in strengthening the development of pastoral organization, and showed that the pastoralists' unions were a powerful factor in protecting the industry against the violent labor aggression of the time.

In 1891 the first Federal Convention of the Pastoralists' Unions in the four col-

onies mentioned was held (Western Australian and Tasmanian wool growers did not form organizations until a much later time). These federal conventions became an approximately annual fixture, the conventions being termed "The Pastoralists' Federal Council of Australia," and at them were discussed many subjects of inter-colonial interest, mainly, however, concerning the rates and conditions for shearing and other sheep-station labor for each ensuing season, but also frequently dealing with organized efforts for the minimizing of drought dangers, the betterment of railway services, the eradication of pests, and occasionally political questions affecting the occupation of pastoral lands.

The Federated Associations and their Federal Council continued their activities along these lines until the outbreak of the great European War, when for the first time a new problem was introduced by the limitation of oversea markets for the disposal of Australia's wool, and the



Australian Merino Rams of the 'robust type. A Sydney sale offering from the Boonoke Stud.



serious depletion of the world's shipping facilities.

At a crucial stage of this problem, in 1916, the then Prime Minister of Australia (Mr. W. M. Hughes) opened negotiations with the British government which resulted in an arrangement whereby Britain purchased, for war munition purposes, the whole of the Australian wool clip for the period of the war, on behalf of herself and her allies, at an average price of 31 cents per pound, which was a little over 50 per cent above the rates previously ruling in the open market. To settle the details of this Imperial wool purchase scheme, it was necessary for the Australian government to obtain expert assistance from both the wool growers and the brokers, and after numerous preliminary meetings two new organizations were eventually evolved, one representing the existing growers' bodies and the other the selling brokers' associations of the Commonwealth. The growers' organization was finally named the Australian Wool Growers' Council, and that of the brokers the National Council of Wool Selling Brokers. The government meanwhile formed a body termed the Central Wool Committee, with branch committees in each state, to carry out the official side of the Imperial wool purchase scheme, and the three organizations,—the government wool committee, the wool growers, and the wool brokers,—cooperated during the war years to make the British Imperial wool purchase scheme the great success it was for all concerned. The accuracy of the appraisal of various types of wool grown in Australia (some 840), and the computations of the values of these varying types so as to produce an average of 31 cents per pound over the whole clip, is probably well known throughout the world's wool trade.

When the Imperial purchase scheme terminated in June, 1920, a new problem arose, viz: the restoration of the prewar open market methods of selling Australia's wool. An attempt was made, by the wool growers' and wool brokers' councils, acting in conjunction as the Australian Wool Council, to obtain the sanction of the 80,000 wool growers of Australia to a scheme whereby some modified form of the control exercised during the war peri-

od should be continued, but an insufficient majority of the growers, on a referendum, declared themselves in favor of such a scheme. The old method of an open market was therefore resumed in October, 1920, and for a time the market showed a serious downward tendency, to which many factors, such as the postwar financial position of European buyers and the American import duty on wool, contributed.

It will be seen from the foregoing that organization of the Australian wool growing industry has developed, by a series of more or less fortuitous circumstances, from industrial necessities, starting with the formation of the pastoralists' unions in 1890-1891. The present Commonwealth organization, the Australian Wool Growers' Council, is constituted of the following individual state organizations:

The Graziers' Association of N. S. Wales.  
The Producers' Associations' Central Council (comprising several local sheep owners' and farmers' bodies).  
The Pastoralists' Union of Southern Riverina.  
The Pastoralists' Association of West Darling.  
The United Graziers' Association of Queensland.  
The Stockowners' Association of South Australia.  
The Pastoralists' Association of Victoria.  
Victorian Farmers' Union.  
Victorian Chamber of Agriculture.  
The Pastoralists' Association of Western Australia.  
Primary Producers' Association.  
The Tasmanian Farmers', Stockowners' and Orchardists' Association.

The organization has no direct membership of individual growers, and collects no direct subscription or funds of its own, but is supported financially by the constituent associations, the total sheep represented in the membership of all these associations being close to 80,000,000. The number of delegates of the constituent associations is seventeen, apportioned approximately according to the proportion of sheep in membership of the associations represented. The costs of conducting the activities of the Wool Growers' Council are contributed to in like proportions.

The original constitution of the council provided comprehensively for all functions concerning the control and marketing of Australia's wool clip, but it was intended to be merely temporary and especially to meet the difficulties likely to arise from the war and immediate post-war periods. The body proved, however,

such a useful adjunct to the existing pastoralists' and graziers' associations that its existence has now been continued indefinitely. Its present functions are to collaborate from time to time with the brokers' organizations, at periodical joint conferences, in organizing the allocations for wool sales in the Commonwealth, so as to place the clip on the market in such quantities, and at such dates, as will enable its ready absorption by the world's buyers, with a consequent reasonable stability of market; to voice growers' views on the various questions arising from time to time, such as the improvement of Commonwealth wool statistics, the regulations to be observed in selling, the discouragement of speculative private buying outside of ordinary broking channels, any improvements desirable in the "get-up," packing and shipment of the clip; freight questions; and generally to do all possible to preserve Australia's great position as a wool-producing country.

The present chairman of the council is Sir Charles Graham Waddell, a prominent New South Wales wool grower, who is also president of the New South Wales Graziers' Association; and the secretary since its inception has been Mr. Leslie Smith, secretary of the Victorian and Southern Riverina Pastoralists' associations, the head office being in Melbourne. No broker is permitted to occupy office in the council, but the relations with both the wool selling and wool buyers' organizations have at all times been most friendly and harmonious. All these organizations recognize that the activities of the council must inevitably lead to mutual advantage.

#### RICHARD WORMWOOD and OTHERS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

I was much amused in reading a story in the December issue of your magazine in which reference is made to the Ten Commandments. If you will permit me, I should like to point out that the first of the Commandments is "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me." The story contains several other errors pertaining to points in court procedure. These might be overlooked but it seems to me that the error cited above stands in need of correction.

Pocatello, Idaho

Stella Enders.



## A New York State Flockmaster

By G. P. Williams

The western flockmasters often are accustomed to thinking of the owners of small flocks of the eastern farm states as not being sheepmen in the strict sense of the word. It is true that two-thirds of the nation's stock sheep are in the states west of the Missouri River. Many western sheep raisers came from eastern sections and were raised on farms in the business of which sheep and wool were prominent considerations. With the

The afternoon of July 2, I buzzed up to the white house of Mark J. Smith, in Schuyler County, New York. This was to shake hands with Mr. Smith and see if old acquaintance were forgot. In the picture with the team you see where I found the young fellow, who was just a very few minutes convincing this roving bachelor that he had reached his journey's end for that day.

Strolling in the little valley as the sun



Mark J. Smith and his American Merino flock.

movement of the sheep business to the range country, the farm industry was partly eclipsed, but it is improbable that this will continue. In the states east of the Missouri River there are now more individual owners of sheep than in the rest of the country. The increase in the number of lambs marketed from the farm states has been a very important factor in making prices in 1927. This increase seems certain to continue and there is room and probability of increase in the so-called 'native' states which can well bring the eastern sheep population to an equality with that of the western area. The eastern and western sheep breeders have a great deal in common and it is to the interests of both that each should understand and appreciate the position of the other. This story of a New York farmer's home and flock relates to a man of modern farming ideas who is adapting sheep to their proper economical place in the agricultural system of the old Empire state. [Editor's Note.]

home. Mother had come out to greet the wanderer and an interesting quartet of small Smiths had been found scattered along from the alfalfa hillside down to mother's side porch.

This very farm and all of the farms around have supplied pioneers for the Far West. Mr. Smith himself was graduated from Illinois College of Agriculture and Mrs. Smith is from the broad acres of that state. Kentucky, Missouri, Ohio and Cornell University have all had the Smiths for a while; but the last half dozen years they have lived right in this native dale of Mr. Smith's.

The open pasture in the distant background of the mower picture is a part of the ancestral fields of the Smith family for several generations. In the old farmhouse now abandoned a rugged Smith family of eight children was reared three generations ago. In an upper room of that old house the writer picked up a commendably good copy of the American Agriculturist dated 1884!

Schuyler County has around 14,000 sheep—not so bad when you think of them as fourteen bands of a thousand each, and Schuyler County has to raise barley for seed and thousands of bushels of beans besides. We also ran across fifty real "Doddy" cattle on one place.

Mr. Smith has bought back the hundred-acre mountain-top farm on which



An Eastern New York Farm Scene.

a real benediction, for it had already become apparent that it was not merely a night lodging that I had found, but a

he was born and on which his father was born. At this minute there isn't a hoof of anything on it but Delaine Merino

sheep and not a spear of anything growing on it but natural pasturage. This is where you see Mr. Smith salting the ewe-and-lamb flock; in the background is Holland (I think of him as Mark, Jr.), as good a sheepman and as sound an ovine head as anybody can make in ten young years.

Here in the state where the National Wool Growers Association was born we find a sheepman who takes pride in belonging to the National Wool Growers Association of today, though far removed in location and in scope. We find here a traveled young man, yet tenacious in proving to the last point the strong traditions of the past. Mark Smith's farm acreage is now only 165 acres, yet I am sure there are much poorer men on much larger places.

The free hospitality of the home kept this visitor over Sunday and over the "glorious Fourth" of July, yet there was none of that driving atmosphere that

must belong to most large farms and ranches; work was to be done, but not so drudgingly much as we meet so often. Life had a social air about it, a livable calmness, a country restfulness instead of the country stress and drive where sheep and grass acres are both fewer.

We all have to answer the question of how much we are going to "swing" when it comes to work and stress and financial obligation. We must decide how much to plunge and how much to sit steady; how much to labor heavily and how much to enjoy as we go less speedily. Whether "in the house by the side of the road," whether on the hilltop with the sheep, whether around that homey dining table or loading up four Smith kiddies in a coup for a roam over the country,—a finer visit I have never enjoyed and hope for no richer than the nearly-three days I spent at Mark J. Smith's, in Schuyler County, New York—when I had just turned in to "shake hands."

## Reducing Lambing Losses Among Ewes

By Dr. J. S. Dade, Inspector in Charge, Idaho Board of Sheep Commissioners, and Dr. W. T. Huffman, Veterinary Inspector, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Heavy losses of aged ewes are frequently sustained just prior to lambing. They occur principally during the fore part of the lambing period in localities where winter feeding and early shed lambing are practiced, or where the sheep are fed during the winter and turned on to the spring range shortly before lambing begins. A part of the loss is in the thin weak ewes, such as "lungers," and must always be expected, but by far the greater portion of loss is among what appear to be the best ewes in the band and is largely preventable.

The affected ewes are nearly always five years old or more and are apparently in good condition with prospects of heavy lambing. Dry sheep or ewes that have lambed are never affected. The condition is quite common on ranches where aged range ewes have been purchased the previous fall and bred for early lambing. The percentage of loss in a band depends largely on the number of ewes of susceptible age, but where all are aged ewes the loss may reach 20 or 25 per cent.

### Losses Occur Within Two Weeks of Lambing

The history is generally typical with only slight variations in different cases. The ewes are usually in good condition in the fall, often having been on pasture, and are placed in the feed lots quite early. They have been fed hay alone or hay with a small amount of grain and maintained under rather close confinement. The loss generally starts within ten days or two weeks of lambing and may continue for about the same length of time after lambing has started. In some cases the loss will appear earlier and continue later, but as a rule it covers about three or four weeks. Where the ewes are kept on the range until two or three weeks before lambing, the loss is usually slight unless the feed has been very poor.

There is a similar loss in strictly range sheep where it is necessary to trail considerable distances on poor feed, or ship from the winter range to the lambing grounds, shortly before lambing.

### Symptoms and Causes

The usual symptoms are loss of appetite, the animal moving off alone, the head usually held high, with slight twitching of the muscles, especially of the ears, some impairment of vision, a discharge from the nose, and drooling from the mouth. Weakness and depression, with a staggering gait, soon develop and in two to four days the animal is down and unable to rise. In this last stage a sheep may remain alive for a week or longer although taking no feed and very little water.

In arriving at conclusions regarding the cause of the loss the following conditions should first be considered:

1. The symptoms appear a short time before the ewe is due to lamb and never after lambing or in dry sheep.

2. In about 95 per cent of the cases the ewes are carrying two or more lambs in an apparently healthy state and the remainder are well-developed singles.

3. Ewes frequently lamb while in the affected condition and, if in the early stages, they may recover and raise their lambs; otherwise they all die.

4. The lambs usually remain alive in the uterus after the ewe dies and it is a quite common practice, when the ewe has been down for some time, to remove the lamb through an incision immediately after killing the ewe, and if near enough to maturity the lamb can be raised.

We consider the primary cause to be an anemia brought about by insufficient nutriment. That is, the nutriment derived from the feed is not enough to maintain the body of the ewe and at the same time supply the amount necessary for the lambs during their greatest fetal development. The weight of twin lambs at birth often exceeds 20 per cent of the normal weight of the ewe and probably 40 per cent of the fetal growth takes place in the last thirty days before lambing. All the nourishment utilized by the lambs must be eaten and digested by the mother and when a shortage exists it seems to leave the ewe's body in a depleted condition.

### Extra Grain Feeding and Exercise Helpful

We have found from numerous investigations that the loss in an affected band can be materially reduced and sometimes

stopped by increasing the grain ration as rapidly as possible until a full feed is reached and at the same time provide sufficient exercise to insure proper digestion as well as the elimination of waste.

Prevention lies in feeding sufficient grain, especially to ewes past four years of age, to provide nutriment for the development of the lambs and at the same time maintain the body of the ewe. The grain should be fed for at least thirty days before lambing and the amount gradually increased to meet the growing demand. Exercise is essential for proper digestion, assimilation, and elimination as well as for the development of physical strength which is required at this time.

The losses are usually more general following a wet summer and where ewes have been on good pasture during the fall. This may be due to the poorer quality of hay being harvested in a wet season and the sheep losing in flesh when changed from pasture to hay. It has been demonstrated by "flushing" experiments that ewes on good pastures or range and thriving at breeding time will have a greater number of twins. When grain is fed during the fall or early winter and discontinued before lambing time the loss may be quite heavy.

On ranges where loss occurs during seasons of short feed and when ewes are to be shipped just prior to lambing, sufficient grain should be fed to maintain the sheep in a thriving condition.

During recent years sheep owners have retained their breeding ewes for a longer period than formerly, thereby increasing the average age of their sheep with a consequent increase in the percentage of susceptible animals. Many of the winter ranges have become depleted, necessitating a longer feeding period before lambing, while the old alfalfa fields and the presence of weevil may be responsible for a lower feeding value in the hay.

With proper feed and management much of the loss in aged lambing ewes can be avoided. The saving of from twelve to fifteen head per thousand will pay for the additional feed consumed without considering the added value of the wool and lamb crops.

## Wool Improvement Work in Oregon

By H. A. Lindgren

Five years ago a wool-improvement demonstration was started on the farm of Ned Sherlock in Lakeview, Oregon. The object of this demonstration was to assist Mr. Sherlock in locating the light-shearing ewes in his band of range ewes, which are of Rambouillet breeding. The sheep were culled in the customary manner, attention being paid to age, condition, conformation, ability to produce lambs and shearing qualities.

A report was issued two years ago, giving some idea of the progress of this demonstration. The five-year period is now up and the figures may be of interest to some of the readers of the National Wool Grower. In explanation I might say that Mr. Sherlock runs his sheep in the ordinary way under range conditions. They are summered on the open range and wintered on the home ranch at Lakeview. Mr. Sherlock is a good feeder and does well by his ewes in the winter time. When he does not have sufficient hay, he provides cotton seed cake, which he thinks very helpful in keeping up the shearing weight of his fleeces. Also, all rams used are of desirable conformation.

When the demonstration started the average fleece weight in the band was 8.3 pounds. This has been increased by 1½ pounds due to culling on fleece weight and the use of heavy shearing rams. The first year the shearing standard below which all fleeces were culled was 7 pounds.

The next year it was increased to 7½ pounds, and the last three years it has remained at 8 pounds. In other words, all of the sheep that sheared below these figures were branded for culling in the fall. Not all the sheep that were branded, however, were culled, because such ewes as were good lamb getters and of good conformation were often retained in the band.

The lambing has been maintained at around 100 per cent throughout the period. Some years it has dropped down to ninety-five, but it will average well up toward one hundred per cent for the entire five years.

One of the most interesting things in connection with this demonstration is the fact that the number of ewes shearing above ten pounds has steadily increased for each year. The first year there were 180 in this class, and at the end of the five-year period there were 790. This is considered one of the outstanding features of the work.

The five-year period during which this plan has been carried on, has resulted in a better band of ewes, more uniform, as far as body conformation goes, as well as a better weight of fleece.

The figures showing the fleece weight are given below in table form. It may be of interest to some of the readers to note just how the change has come about. From the table it will be seen that there is a steady reduction in the number of

A NUMERICAL RECORD OF FLEECE WEIGHTS

	1923	1924	1925	1926	1927
Shearing Dates ..... May	14-17	2-6	15-19	9-12	14-17
Total sheep sheared .....	1,545	1,651	1,612	1,824	1,889
Culling standard pounds.....	7	7.5	8	8	8
Number shearing below standard.....	241	170	150	209	181
Number shearing above standard.....	1,304	1,481	1,462	1,615	1,708
Total wool weights.....	12,825.5	16,309.2	16,107.2	17,804.7	18,346
Average fleece weights.....	8.3	9.8	9.9	9.7	9.7
Per cent branded for culling.....	15.7	10.2	9.3	11.5	9.5
Number shearing 10 lbs. or above.....	180	465	771	774	790
Number shearing from 4 to 4.9 lbs.....	15	6	0	1	0
Number shearing from 5 to 5.9 lbs.....	38	16	10	5	4
Number shearing from 6 to 6.9 lbs.....	181	62	37	35	26
Number shearing from 7 to 7.9 lbs.....	406	236	101	168	151
Number shearing from 8 to 8.9 lbs.....	409	423	301	343	396
Number shearing from 9 to 9.9 lbs.....	316	415	390	498	522
Number shearing from 10 to 10.9 lbs.....	130	278	365	388	414
Number shearing from 11 to 11.9 lbs.....	33	120	242	236	243
Number shearing from 12 to 12.9 lbs.....	14	51	108	104	89
Number shearing from 13 to 13.9 lbs.....	3	16	35	39	32
Number shearing from 14 to 14.9 lbs.....	.....	.....	.....	7	11
Number shearing from 15 to 15.9 lbs.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1



light-shearing ewes and a corresponding increase in the high-shearing ewes.

The figures show that this year only thirty ewes sheared less than seven pounds, as compared with 234 shearing less than seven pounds in 1923.

From the standpoint of improving the flock, this plan of weighing fleeces at the time of shearing and spotting the light-shearing ewes, offers an opportunity for hastening the improvement of a flock. Mr. Sherlock, the owner of the sheep, feels enthusiastic enough about the plan, that he has asked that it be continued another five years, with only slight change in it. The next step will be to try to increase the number of heavy-shearing ewes by saving lambs from ewes that shear above the standard. As the work progresses reports of it will be made available.

#### DIANA UP-TO-DATE

Miss Martha Suiste of Pilot Rock, Oregon, has proved conclusively that the American girl of today is as brave as the American man, when it comes to killing bobcats free-handed.

Miss Martha is sixteen years old, the daughter of Mrs. Minnie Suiste, a widow, owning a sheep ranch on Butter Creek, fifteen miles south of Pilot Rock. It was while Martha was caring for the family flock that she and her faithful shepherd dogs happened onto the two bobcats that had taken shelter in a rock ledge. The dogs were unable to get the cats to neutral territory, so Martha stoned the pair until the younger cat fell from the ledge and was quickly pounced on by the dogs, who made quick work of it.

Then came the furious battle with the mother bobcat. By stoning the cat, Martha finally landed a rock to the cat's body, knocking it from the rock perch. Mrs. Bobcat landed a throat hold simultaneous with one of the dogs and it was a battle for death. It looked serious to Martha and this is where she stepped in to break the clinch. It was impossible to club the cat for fearing of killing her dog. After ten minutes of battle the two animals parted, both weak from the vicious throat hold. The bobcat went to her corner in the cliff, while Martha continued the rock barrage and finally landed

a rock to Mrs. Bobcat's head and the thirty-minute fight was over.

Martha was very proud of her kill and immediately started for home, a distance of one mile, with a dead cat under each arm. On arriving home her mother was greatly surprised when Martha informed her that they were lambing, not sheep, but bobcats.



Miss Martha Suiste, Her Dogs, and Kill

In recognition of her valuable services Miss Suiste has been presented with a substantial bonus by the Pilot Rock Commercial Association and Pilot Rock Sheepmen.

Pilot Rock, Ore.

C. V. Bracher.

#### MARY'S LAMB

Of the innumerable lambs that have gambolled their brief way through the hazards of mortal existence, probably the only one that has ever attained any degree of immortality is the lamb with the snow-white fleece that Mary had; and even its glory is somewhat shadowed by the controversy over the original Mary who had such a lamb. Both America and England claim her and also the author of the three famous stanzas.

There seems to be agreement that someone connected with the name of Horatio Hale was the author, either Mr. Hale himself or his wife. A family matter of course, but the rub comes in the fact that the supporters of the English

claimant to the honor of having inscribed the rhyme maintain that Mrs. Hale was a Miss Sarah Burl of London, while American records are to the effect that Mrs. Hale was Miss Sarah Josepha Buel, born at Newport, New Hampshire.

The English version of the origin of Mary's lamb is recited in an interesting article in the November issue of the Utah Educational Review, written by Mr. Ralph Darlington. According to it, Mrs. Mary Hughes, a Welshwoman now of some 86 years, is the original Mary. As the daughter of one John Thomas, who had a flock of Welsh mountain sheep, it fell to Mary to succor many orphaned lambs, and when she was seven, she numbered among her pets one 'Billy', and it was 'Billy' who did the following to school one day and made the children laugh. The Thomas home lay in a particularly beautiful part of Wales, Llangollen, and to this spot came many tourists from England, the Continent, and even America. Among them at one time were the three Misses Burl from London, who visited at the Thomas home, and of course, heard the stories of Mary and her lambs. The eldest of the sisters, Miss Sarah Burl, was a writer of verses, and is supposed to have penned the delightful children's rhyme, 'Mary Had a Little Lamb'. This Miss Burl, it is claimed, later married Mr. Moratio Hale of America.

This story is very charming and quite convincing, but on the other hand, a grand nephew of the Mrs. Sarah Josepha Buel Hale, born in New Hampshire, presented in 1904 through the Century Magazine a facsimile of the pages on which the disputed rhyme was printed in his great aunt's book, published in 1830. Another group claim that Horatio Hale himself wrote the verses to a Miss Mary Sawyer, in whose honor Mr. Henry Ford recently erected a schoolhouse at Redstone Hill, Sterling.

This is an interesting controversy, but ultimately of little consequence, so far as the fame of the little lamb is concerned, for after all, no matter who the author may have been or who the original Mary, the little lamb made famous in the verses will continue to receive the homage of the children of future generations as it has in the past.



# Sheep and Goat Exhibits By Boys and Girls

## AT THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR

The exhibit put on by the California Boys' and Girls' Rambouillet Lamb Club at the fall fair in that state aroused more comment and interest than the regular sheep show. A total of \$135 in prize money had been contributed by the California Ram-

bouillet Breeders Association and a special prize for the best general exhibit had been offered by F. N. Bullard of Woodland, California, who is president of the American

Rambouillet Breeders Association. The youthful lamb raisers presented thirty lambs to compete for the awards which were made in the following classes: best ram lamb, best ewe lamb, best wether lamb, best fleece, and best general exhibit. It is especially interesting to note that lambs shown by the fair sex secured all the first places. Miss Phyllis Culver of Glenn showed the best ram lamb; Miss Josephine Silva of Woodland took first place for the best ewe lamb and first and third places in the class for the best fleece; Miss Virginia Miller of Davis won the first prize for the best wether lamb; Miss Josephine Miller of Davis, had the best general exhibit and the second best wether lamb, and also took third places in the ram lamb and

ewe lamb divisions. Second prizes were won by Raymond Sieber of Woodland for his general exhibit, ram lamb and ewe lamb. His wether lamb also stood third. Roy Sieber of Woodland captured second prize money in the best fleece class.

The plan for the show was discussed with prominent breeders of both sheep and goats, who promised their support in securing prize money and in the fall of 1925, the matter was presented to the boys in the class, and the start was made. Some of the boys were held back on account of finances, but later secured backing to help them through. Letters were sent out and personal inquiries made to secure animals. Most of the men responded readily, giving assur-



A part of the California Boy's and Girls' Rambouillet Lamb Club exhibit at the 1927 California State Fair.

## AT DEL RIO, TEXAS

In each of the past two years the vocational agricultural class of the Del Rio High School has had a sheep and goat show. The shows resulted from the development of sheep and goats for vocational class projects. So many of the boys taking the course were town boys or ranch boys living in town during the winter, that it was impossible for them to carry ranch projects, and since it is required of all students in the class to carry a project, the show idea was developed.

ance that they would let the boys have their best.

While we were waiting for the sheep, the project idea was explained and drilled into the boys. A study of the classes and breeds was made in class-room instruction, and the types of wool were given brief consideration, small samples being used to illustrate the wool of the different breeds of sheep. Then with this background the reasons for selecting Rambouillet sheep for the work was made clear to the boys.

The next lesson was a judging demonstration to prepare the boys to select their rams. One good ram was selected and gone over carefully; all the parts were named and their relative importance explained.



The 1927 sheep and goat show of the vocational agricultural class of the Del Rio, Texas, High School.

ed. The method of determining age was taught; also the difference in type. After this two rams, different in many ways, were placed before the boys and they were asked to make their placings. As it was a comparatively easy task, most of them were right in their decisions. They gave their reasons for their choice and the differences in the two rams were pointed out by the instructor. Of course, not much could be learned in so short a time, but a new vision was opened up for them and they were put into a position to begin learning.

When the sheep and goats were received, most of them being selected by the breeders for the boys, the boys were told how to care for them and given instructions on feeding. As the course proceeded they were taught the reasons for feeding various feeds and how to work rations. The feed was weighed or measured. From time to time the ration was increased or changed, the boys always obtaining advice before making any change. The stalls were kept in good condition as they were often inspected. About once a month the projects were weighed. The one bad feature about weighing was that it made the boys desire to make their animals gain more than they should. At the end of the school year the cost of developing was figured and entered in project books.

The first show was held on May 8, 1926. Mr. A. K. Mackey, sheep husbandryman for the A. & M. College, judged the sheep, and Mr. O. L. Carpenter of the Sonora Experiment Station, judged the goats. B and C type registered Rambouillet yearling rams were shown and yearling Angora billies, divided into long-fleeced and short-fleeced classes. Two hundred dollars was given away in prizes. After the school show some of the sheep and goats were held for other shows, but most of them were sold at the sale during the convention at Del Rio.

This year twenty-two sheep were shown, six B type rams and 16 C type rams. Sheep from Utah, Wyoming and Texas were included in the exhibit. All the goats, however, were Texas bred. The goats were divided into the new classification of B and C type, the B class being

the greasier, heavier shearing type and the C class the light shrinking, quality producing type. In each group eight prizes, ranging from \$20 down to \$1, were awarded. Mr. J. M. Jones, chief of the animal husbandry work for the Texas Experiment Station, made the sheep awards, while Mr. John Ward, prominent breeder and president of the A. A. G. B. A., placed the goats. Both men gave instructive reasons for their rating of the animals and seemed pleased with the

quality and development of the projects.

Most of the boys took their rams to their fathers' ranches, and the fathers of some of the boys have permitted them to top their ewes to mate with the ram the son has developed. The offspring from some of these matings will go to grade up the range flock. Thus the boys have not only had experience, but have made a material gain and won their fathers' interest and confidence.

J. A. Gorman.

## Sheep Affairs in Australia and New Zealand

By A. C. Mills

Melbourne, Nov. 16, 1927

The 1927 Australian lamb export season opened last month under none too favorable conditions. Owing to the dry winter experienced in the eastern states losses of lambs were considerably above the normal in most of the districts from which freezers are drawn. In addition feed was so scanty that a large percentage of the lambs that were saved have not matured satisfactorily. The result is that well finished carcasses are scarce, and generally above oversea parity, which has forced shippers to concentrate on lighter weights. However, it happens that the present demand in Great Britain runs primarily to small joints, so things in this respect are not so bad as they might be. Graziers are also deriving some satisfaction from the fact that exporters have been able to pay somewhat higher rates for the available supplies than was the case last season.

About 75 per cent of the meat packing plants in the south are at present slaughtering lambs for the oversea trade, and so far as those in New South Wales and Victoria are concerned, are working up to about 80 per cent of their full capacity. For reasons set out in the previous paragraph, a long run is not anticipated. October killings totaled 431,028 head, but it is doubtful if November's will be as large. Altogether probably somewhere about 1,000,000 lambs will be put through during the current season, compared with approximately two millions in 1926-27.

Regarding prices, when the season opened packers commenced buying in

the open market in Melbourne on the basis of from 13 to 14 cents per pound, bare meat, dressed for the few prime lambs available, seconds costing around 12½ cents, and thirds from 11 cents to 11½ cents a pound. These rates were maintained fairly well until early November, when a drop in the London market obliged shippers to reduce their limits. Latterly they have been paying 12 cents to nearly 13 cents for top grades, 11 cents to 12 cents for seconds, and about 10 cents to 10½ cents a pound, bare meat, for thirds. Sydney rates have usually been a shade under those ruling in Melbourne. It may be added that probably quite a number of very light lambs have been bought in both markets at even under 10 cents per pound, bare meat, at odd times. Buying on farms in the country has practically finished. It is understood that the cost there has worked out at about 13 cents per pound, delivered at door of packing house.

For the sake of comparison it may be said that when the export season opened in 1926 the buying basis was from 10 cents to 10½ cents a pound, bare meat, for first and second grades. Subsequently the rate advanced to 11 cents to 11½ cents, but dropped back a little afterwards. The average for the whole of last season was probably 11 cents per pound, which with a lamb dressing 34 pounds works out at about \$5 per head.

Liquidation of the Australian wool clip is proceeding steadily, regular auctions having been held at all centers since last writing. Though there have

been no outstanding features connected with the sales, prices generally are on a higher level than was the case a month ago. This is due in part to the better intrinsic value of the wool now coming on the market, though there is no doubt that there is a hardening tendency for all but the most inferior descriptions. The latter, however, are not in any great volume.

Selling brokers report that the competition for the clip just now covers a wider range than at any time since the opening of the season. There has been no change in the demand from either Japan or the Continent of Europe, but Great Britain is bidding more freely, and the same applies to America and Russia.

In connection with the latter country's activities, a representative of the Textile Import Co. Ltd., of Moscow, a few days ago told a press representative that since the selling season opened in August and up to the end of October, his firm had purchased 27,000 bales of Australian wool, valued at \$4,050,000. The company's staff in Australia comprises twenty-two, of whom six are Russians. In addition to buying wool the business is concerned with scouring, the wool bought by the firm being all scoured before shipping, so as to save excessive import duties.

When commenting on the above a well known authority in the trade here pointed out that the advent of Russia's buying in the markets could not have been more opportune than in a season such as the present, when thinly grown, dusty, fine wools of medium to short length are so much in evidence. The Russian operations have enabled brokers to quit the wools in question at satisfactory prices, whereas without that demand, it would have been difficult to liquidate the whole of them. Germany and France have in the past been the principal buyers of those types, but their requirements are not altogether unlimited.

Surprise was expressed a few weeks back when the National Council of Woolselling Brokers issued a statement to the effect that it had considered the question of clip estimates and decided to adhere to its June forecast of 2,250,000 bales. I must hasten to explain that this

refers to anticipated receipts into members stores, and not to actual production, quite a different proposition. For instance production in 1926-27 was 2,712,438 bales, while brokers only handled 2,508,374 bales. Assuming brokers' receipts this season bear the same relation to the total clip as in 1926-27 it will be seen that the council looks for a decrease of but 250,000 bales. The matter has been widely discussed, and the general consensus of opinion is that the reduction may be materially greater. As a matter of fact, some men well able to gauge the prospects claim that the decrease will be fully 450,000 bales, but that is perhaps going a little too far.

One interesting fact brought to light is that while the average weight per bale in 1926-27 was 334.22 pounds, this year it has so far worked out at 320.35 pounds. The difference, obviously, is due to the drier condition of the wool comprising the current clip, and has nothing to do with

the cubic contents of the bale. As a matter of fact those who believe the decrease will be greater than the wool-growers' forecast say that despite the lighter bales, more fleeces are being packed into them.

The appeal to sheep herders to allocate a small percentage of wool receipts to the Australian Pastoral Research Trust, referred to in my previous letters, appears to be meeting with fair response. I gather that the proposition was rather coldly received at first, but has been taken up better lately. The coldness was not due to antagonism, but indifference. In addition to authorizing brokers to deduct 48 cents per bale from the proceeds of their sales, some graziers have made important direct donations to the Trust. These range from \$50 to \$5,000. A fair number of donations, with the bale levies, would soon bring the Trust fund up to the desired minimum of \$1,000,000.

## An Analysis of Wool Conditions in 1927 and Probable Outlook for 1928

By Matt Staff, President, National Wool Exchange

In view of the great speed by which wool dealers are now acquiring by contract the coming 1928 domestic wool clip, it is well to consider the reasons which prompt this activity.

For many months the stage has been set for a substantial advance of wool prices in our domestic markets. The expected advance has been slow in making its appearance for only one reason, to wit: *Wool Dealers Generally Have Followed The Sound Merchandising Principle of Marketing Their Stocks Whenever A Profit Could be Made, Irrespective of Actual Values.* Evidently the old saying that a merchant cannot go broke when he sells at a profit has been accepted as true.

When I speak of "actual values", I mean the cost of comparable foreign wool landed in American ports with duty paid. Not at any time during 1927 has our domestic wool sold on a parity with foreign wools of like description.

Some have cited the financial situation of our domestic mills as a contributing

cause to this condition. The truth of the matter is that the prices now being paid in the West are not at all out of line with actual values based on world wool market conditions.

In order to arrive at a conclusion as to what may happen in 1928, it is well to consider in a general way what has transpired during 1927.

In general, wool prices in world markets during 1927 have been on a remunerative basis. An idea as to the extent of increase in prices can be had by comparing December prices this year with those of a year ago:

Average Price	Dec. 1927	Dec. 1926
U. S. (Fairchild Domestic Index) (8 numbers).....	\$ 99½	\$ 93-1/5
London Auctions (Fairchild Index (6 numbers).....	37.00d	31.80d
New Zealand (10 numbers).....	32.90d	26.35d
Australian (11 numbers).....	46.27d	39.14d
South African (4 numbers).....	49.12d	44.00d

While the above figures show a substantial December over December gain, the average increase for the year would



not be as large. Prices in the United States, Australia, and London eased off at the beginning of the summer, only to resume the upward trend with the beginning of the new 1927-28 season—July 1.

Prices in the United States, despite continued advances since June, average 5.6 per cent below a year ago—that is for the first eleven months; while prices in foreign countries average higher than in 1926.

Upon analysis of world conditions during 1927, we find that the large carry-over from previous seasons in leading producing countries was liquidated. This has been especially true in Australia. World consumption of wool has continued to gain. The decline in the United States, France, Belgium and Italy of imports was more than offset by the gains in Germany, Japan, Poland and Russia.

A comparison of imports by leading countries from September 1, 1926 to August 31, 1927, with September 1, 1925 to August 31, 1926, shows the following:

	1926-27 lbs.	1925-26 lbs.
Germany .....	433,599,000	317,379,000
Belgium .....	57,848,000	108,805,000
France .....	676,211,000	717,448,000
Great Britain .....	830,296,000	828,793,000
Poland .....	40,305,000	18,137,000
United States .....	275,002,000	318,116,000
Japan .....	89,323,000	65,612,000
	2,402,584,000	2,374,290,000

The carry-over in leading foreign countries, while larger at the beginning of 1927 than 1926, was nevertheless not excessive, especially with improved conditions in England, continued record consumption in Germany, and increased operations by Russia and Japan.

With the world in general continuing to consume at a slightly increased rate, the weight of the 1927-28 clip in Australia is of utmost importance, especially with a very light carry-over. The carry-over as of June 30, 1927 in Australia was 25,426 bales, compared with 33,419 bales as of June 30, 1926; New Zealand carry-over as of June 30, 1927 was 4,689 bales, compared with 10,844 bales as of June 30, 1926.

A long drought in Australia resulted in a smaller clip for 1927-28 through fewer and lighter fleeces. A drought in South America has also affected the probable 1927-28 supply. The result has

been that the total 1927-28 world supply which had been expected to show a gain was not equal to that of 1926-27. Inasmuch as the total carry-over was low, the total available supply for the season will probably be 350,000 Australian bales below a year ago. (Average weight per bale approximately 330 pounds.)

Conditions in the United States may be summarized by indicating:

1. *The Largest Consumption in Several Years.*

2. *Decline in Imports.*

3. *Decline in Stocks.*

The total consumption including carpet wool for the first 10 months for about 80 per cent of the industry was 463,515,000 pounds compared with 414,384,000 pounds the corresponding period of 1926. Excluding carpet wool, the total consumption for the ten months, this year, was 350,530,000 pounds compared with 311,745,000 pounds for the corresponding period of 1926. (A portion of the mills, about 20 per cent, did not report.)

Despite the increase in consumption, men's clothing cut shows a decline; this is indicated by comparison of the data issued by 550 identical establishments. For the first ten months, cutting of men's woolen suits declined 5.5 per cent; overcoats 10.2 per cent, while boys' woolen suits declined 8.3 per cent. There are definite indications, however, that in both the women's apparel and the sweater industry, the use of wool yarns and fabrics increased. An idea as to the extent of the gain of sweaters in popular favor can be had by comparing sales in department stores of seven Federal Reserve Districts. They show as follows.

January .....	Minus	11.7
February .....	Plus	5.2
March .....	"	21.7
April .....	"	23.1
May .....	"	11.3
June .....	"	27.5
July .....	"	19.7
August .....	"	38.3
September .....	"	9.4
October .....	"	8.4

While consumption was gaining, imports declined—despite the fact that stocks at the end of December, 1926, were lower. An idea as to the extent of the decline in imports can be had for three ports—Boston, Philadelphia and New York. They show a decline of 59,895,-

363 pounds in combing wool from January 1, 1927 to December 10, 1927 compared with corresponding period of 1926. The total, including carpet wool, shows a decline of 26,629,000 pounds for the same period.

Foreign stock in bond in Boston at the end of November was 3,834,000 pounds of combing wool compared with 25,164,000 pounds as of November 30, 1926.

The facts related above (based largely on information verified by the Fairchild Analytical Bureau of New York, the most highly specialized and dependable service in the Textile Industry), should throw some light on the probable trend of events in 1928. General business conditions outside of the textile industry will, however, exert a most important influence on every industry, not excluding the clothing industry. At this time, practically every economist and business service are in agreement that 1928 will be a splendid year for business, and many predict that it will excel the year 1927. There is a plentiful supply of money at low rates of interest for every legitimate business enterprise; stocks of merchandise are abnormally low; wages continue high; and the buying power of the consuming public has not been excelled in the history of the country. There is at present not a cloud on the business horizon for 1928.

Conditions in Europe are the best since the termination of the war. Currencies have been reestablished on the gold basis and the pains incident thereto are past. The prediction is freely made that Europe will experience a business boom somewhat akin to that experienced by our own country after the election of President Coolidge in 1924. All of which argues for the contention that Europe will continue to take its usual quota of foreign wools.

The United States undoubtedly will for some time continue to be a wool importing country and probably always will import the types of wool most used for carpets. During the past two years our imports, as previously shown, have greatly decreased; a fact due largely to the relative cheapness of our domestic wools. To illustrate, the following table is presented to show the purchases made by the United States in Australia for the first half of the series:



1924-25	....	7¼	per cent of the total
1925-26	....	6¾	" " " " "
1926-27	....	4¼	" " " " "

Purchases during first half 1927-28 series are the smallest on record and quite infinitesimal.

The present situation on record and outlook for next year may be summarized about as follows:

1. Conditions in every wool market throughout the world are absolutely sound. Good clearances have been had at all foreign auctions so that there will be no carry-over. Prices have remained very firm and many grades have advanced materially.

2. Stocks on hand in our domestic markets are the lowest on record and hardly sufficient to supply our mills for two months.

3. America has bought so little wool in foreign markets during the present season that our mills may be forced to depend on the coming domestic clip almost entirely.

4. Present indications point to a substantial increase in consumption of wool for women's apparel and sweaters.

5. Men's clothing cut having shown a decline during 1927 argues for a like increase during 1928. The need for clothing is fortunately—cumulative.

6. The greatly improved financial condition of Europe and Japan assures increased consumption of wool there.

7. Production of wool is not keeping pace with the increase in consumption.

8. Confidence in the soundness of the business and banking situation in the United States is now firmly established, and the outlook for 1928 is very bright.

The foregoing summary, when considered in connection with the activities of the dealers in the West at this time, would seem to furnish the basis for complete confidence in the present situation so far as wool is concerned. It is a certainty that prices during 1928 will rule materially above the 1927 levels, but whether or not they will reach parity with foreign wools remains to be seen. It has been the contention of the National Wool Exchange that American wool growers are entitled to receive for their product just what the same kind of wool grown in foreign countries would cost laid down in

this country with duty paid. This is what they are entitled to and no more. If a sufficient volume of wool could be held under one control, this price could be obtained for it and would work no hardship to the public, while, at the same

time, it would greatly aid the manufacturers through the establishment of a stable market. No one, however, but the growers themselves can bring this condition about.

## The Cost of Administration of National Forest Grazing

Some interesting facts regarding expenses of government activities are found in the record of expenditures made by the Forest Service in recent years. Since 1905, the 'cost of administration' of grazing on the national forests has been much discussed by grazing permittees and by stockmen generally. It still is asserted that it was understood and agreed that the amount of such charges should only be sufficient to reimburse the government for the expenditures involved in the regulation of grazing as found necessary in the general plan of conserving and utilizing all of the forest resources.

In his decision on grazing fees, rendered at Salt Lake on January 25, 1927, Secretary Jardine largely sustained the present officers of the Forest Service in their claim that grazing should be charged for on a commercial basis, though it is not yet clear as to just how the Secretary considers such commercial value should be determined.

In the annual appropriations made by Congress to the Department of Agriculture for the Forest Service no attempt is made to show what amounts are needed or to be expended in connection with grazing apart from other forest activities. In 1924, however, the Service adopted the plan of reporting its expenditures in connection with grazing as a separate item. The amounts so reported for the last four years are shown below along with revenue from grazing and similar figures in connection with timber.

### Fiscal Year 1924

Expended for grazing....	\$ 641,516.63
Received from grazing....	1,915,561.49
Expended on timber.....	661,566.20
Income from timber.....	3,036,395.75

### Fiscal Year 1925

Expended for grazing....	\$ 535,944.60
Received from grazing....	1,725,376.81

Expended on timber.....	895,122.51
Income from timber.....	2,940,393.30

### Fiscal Year 1926

Expended for grazing....	\$ 588,353.73
Received from grazing....	1,421,588.70
Expended on timber.....	960,225.44
Income from timber.....	3,366,685.36

### Fiscal Year 1927

Expended for grazing....	\$ 926,837.09
Received from grazing....	1,530,952.46
Expended on timber.....	1,136,499.42
Income from timber.....	3,253,242.56

The proportion of grazing receipts reported as having been expended on grazing in 1926 was 41 per cent and in 1927, 60 per cent. On timber the change was from 28 per cent to 34 per cent. The total expenditures for forests increased in 1927 by 3.4 per cent over those of 1926 when the amount was nearly 23 million dollars.

There is now charged to grazing and to timber, a considerable amount of expenditures previously charged against other branches of the work. Relative to the cost accounting system employed in the Washington office the last annual report of the chief forester said:

"Costs are kept on the basis of activities, and to the 'productive activities,' are apportioned many expenditures for field and office supplies, functions of service, supervision, and the like. The prorating of these costs has in the past been in accordance with the relative money expenditures immediately chargeable to each 'productive activity.' In the present statement they are prorated according to relative time expenditures. This method affords a fairer picture of relative costs than the earlier method. Its most outstanding results appear in a lessened apparent expenditure on roads and trails under the final item 'contributed from other appropriations' of more than \$900,000. elsewhere, mainly in national-forest administration and protection."

The question of cost of administration of grazing has a real interest for residents of forest states with the introduction of Senator Smoot's bill which provides that all of the revenue from grazing, less ten

per cent to be used for grazing improvements and an amount equal to the cost of grazing administration, shall be returned to the states in which the forests are situated and to be used in the same way as these states now use the 25 per cent of the forest revenue which they receive under present law.

#### AUTO TRUCKS USED FOR WASHINGTON LAMBS

For the cattlemen and sheepmen using the national forests in Oregon and Washington, 1927 was one of the best seasons in a long series of years. Plenty of moisture early in the fall of 1926, heavy snowfall in the high country during the winter, and generally good growing weather last spring resulted in an unusually good growth of forage. Cattle and sheep entered the forest ranges later than usual, principally due to the fact that spring range was good and held up well. With very few exceptions, both classes of stock were in good condition on entrance, and continued to improve throughout the summer. We had more beef and fewer cull lambs from the ranges last year than for any season in many years.

Moisture conditions last fall were excellent. Considerable feed was left on most of the allotments, and an unusual amount of natural reseeding occurred. Nineteen-twenty-eight should be even better from a range standpoint than the past season.

Some of your readers would class me with Richard A. Wormwood if I mention the percentage of lambs secured by the growers in the state of Washington. The percentage is high, nevertheless, and bank accounts and shipping records are the proof thereof. Not only that, but these lambs are quality products and brought top prices at the markets.

Washington sheepmen think so kindly of these little 85-pound money-getters that they are beginning to furnish them with automobile transportation from the range to the shipping point. As an example, several of the permittees on the Chelan National Forest shipped their mutton lambs by truck last fall. Lambs loaded at the Gold Creek dipping vat were trucked to Pateros for 25 cents per head,

and from Early Winters for 40 cents per head. The Methow Valley Transportation Company fitted up five of their large trucks with special beds or racks of two decks, and were able to haul from ninety to one hundred head per load. The round trip from Early Winters required about twelve hours, and from the start of loading in the trucks to the time of unloading at Pateros it required just seven hours. It requires twelve days to make the trip by trail. Needless to say, the shrinkage and loss of quality occurring on the trail was largely eliminated by this plan.

Many Oregon owners are increasing their lamb crops and their fleece weights. They will have to go some to catch up with Washington in the matter of lamb crops, but they are making an effort. Some of them have the Washington men beaten on fleece weights, averaging around 12 pounds, and it is these same owners who are making new Oregon records for percentage of lambs. Oregon owners are also experimenting in various places with automobile transportation of lambs from range to shipping point this fall.

In both states the old reliable sheepmen who have stood the brunt of hard times and low prices and enjoyed the occasional good years, are looking forward optimistically to 1928.

E. N. Kavanagh.

Portland, Oregon

#### NORTHWEST WOOL SHOW

The growing of wool is one of the leading industries of the northwestern states, yet it is not played up or given much mention in the premium list of the state and county fairs. To correct this and place the growing of wool before the public of the northwest empire, the Montana Wool Growers Association, cooperating with the Montana State Department of Agriculture, has organized the Northwest Wool Show, to be held in conjunction with the State Ram Sale and the Montana State Fair, at Helena, Montana.

The First Annual Northwest Wool Show will be held next September 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st and 22nd, at Helena, Montana. The show is organized to include the states of North and South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, Arizona,

Nevada, Utah, Idaho, California, Oregon, Washington, Canada and Montana, in fact all the eleven western woolgrowing states are requested to send in fleeces and to cooperate with the Montana Wool Growers Association in making the Northwest Wool Show a success. The state associations of the states listed are asked to cooperate with the Montana Association in making this event a big annual affair.

The premium list is in the hands of the printer and will be ready for distribution soon. The total premiums amount to over \$3000.00, two thousand dollars of which is in the form of special awards and trophies, and \$1000 and over in regular premiums. Contributions to the First Northwest Wool Show received to date are: National Wool Exchange, Boston, Silver Trophy for best Collective Exhibit of 10 Fleeces; St. Paul Union Stock Yards, South St. Paul, Minn., Silver Trophy; Bowles Livestock Commission Co., Chicago, Silver Trophy; Wood Bros., Commission Merchants, Chicago, Silver Trophy; S. Silberman & Sons, Chicago, Silver Trophy; Chas. J. Webb & Sons, Philadelphia, Silver Trophy; Nat'l Association of Wool Manufacturers, Boston, Silver Trophy; T. C. Power Company, Helena, Silver Trophy. The total value of the trophies offered by these companies is \$1500.00. There are a few more companies to hear from, which will easily run the value of the trophies offered for the 1928 Wool Show to \$2000.00.

\$1000.00 in cash and special prizes will be given in addition to the Silver Trophies, and \$300.00 from the State Department of Agriculture.

Storage for 2000 fleeces has been provided by the Montana Wool Growers' Association. The fleeces may be sent in as soon as shorn and they will be stored without charge in a specially prepared room and properly entered, classified and exhibited at the Show.

The Montana Wool Growers Association earnestly solicits the support of all woolgrowers, State Associations, and woolgrowers' organizations, to cooperate in making the First Annual "Northwest Wool Show" the success that it should be, to truly represent the sheep and wool industry of the Northwest.

# Size of Fine Wool Range Ewes in Relation to Production

By W. E. Joseph, Montana Experiment Station

Data on four lamb crops from 333 range ewes of fine wool breeding indicate that size of ewes has a definite influence on production.

The ewes on which these studies were made were range-bred and range-raised. Approximately 90 per cent of the 1925 clip was graded as fine and fine medium by the National Wool Exchange. In weight the ewes ranged from 80 to 159 pounds the first of the year in their mature form. They were bought as lambs by the Montana Agricultural Experiment Station in 1921. No culling has been done. It was considered desirable to obtain data on wool and lamb production of the culls as well as of the desirable ewes.

The average lamb production was determined by dividing the pounds of lamb raised during the four years by the number of years in which lambs were raised. Most of the ewes included in the study raised four lamb crops, a number of them raised three crops, and if two uniform crops were raised they were included in the study. The average age of the lambs when weighed was 148 days. Oftentimes failure to raise a lamb crop is due to no fault of the ewe. Hence the ewe should not be penalized by failure to raise lambs during one or two years unless it is known to be due to her own fundamental defect.

The following table is a summary of the results of this study:

Wts. of Ewes Lbs.	Ave. Am't of lamb produced by each ewe per year lbs.	Twins raised		Ave. Wt. of fleece lbs.
		No. of pairs	Ave. Wt. of pair lbs.	
33 ewes less than 100	68	6	118	9.3
72 ewes 100-109	74	31	114	9.6
98 ewes 110-119	79	55	121	10.1
75 ewes 120-129	84	50	125	10.4
55 ewes 130-159	89	50	140	10.8

There is a strikingly uniform tendency for the heavier ewes to produce more lamb. Those weighing less than 100 pounds produced an average of 21 pounds less lamb per year than those weighing

130 pounds or over. The percentage of pairs of twins raised as well as the average weight of the pairs was higher also for the heavier ewes. Selection on the basis of weight of ewes also results in heavier average fleeces. The average fleece of the heaviest group of ewes was 1.5 pounds heavier than that of the lightest group. The tendency in this case was also uniform.

In order to be assured that the differ-



258R weighed 98 pounds in January, 1925.  
Average lamb production for three years—55 pounds.  
Average wool production for the same three years—9.6 pounds.

ences were not due to variations in ages of the lambs or to increased numbers of twin lambs raised by the heavier ewes, the weights of all lambs were calculated to uniform age and to the basis of single lambs. On this basis the differences were as clean cut as those shown in the preceding table. It seems justifiable to conclude that the larger ewes tend to raise

heavier lambs.

Did the lambs raised by the larger ewes have large frames and a low degree of finish? Every lamb was scored for condition when weighed. The lambs from

the heavy ewes had a tendency to show higher condition at approximately five months of age. This tendency was at least sufficient to justify the statement that size was not obtained at the sacrifice of finish.

Size or weight of ewes should not be used as the only basis for culling ewes for lamb production. Nor should extreme size be sought. Type should always be one of the prime considerations in the se-



122R weighed 141 pounds in January, 1925.  
Average lamb production for four years—114 pounds.  
Average wool production for the same four years—10.9 pounds.

lection of breeding stock. If desirable type can be combined with size ranging from average weights upward, not necessarily including extreme size, increased weights of lambs should result.

In this case, as in most efforts at improvement by culling, the immediate result is not likely to be very striking. By consistently following a plan of culling and selection through a period of years the possibilities of improvement may be quite large.

Five or six of the 33 ewes weighing less than 100 pounds ranked average in lamb production while all the rest were below average. Since both the wool and the lamb production by these ewes were well below the average of the entire band it seems logical that they should be culled out.

The greatest possibilities of improvement in lamb production are likely to be realized by selecting the ewes which weigh



120 or 130 pounds and upward for the production of ewe lambs to add to the flock. If the ewe lambs produced by these ewes were ear marked at lambing time so that they could be identified when they are separated from the sale lambs, the benefits of selection could be increased from year to year. Selection of rams on the basis of type and size as sires of the lambs retained for breeding purposes combined with the selection of ewe lambs from the larger ewes of more desirable type should perpetuate any gain in lamb production which may result from culling and selection.

It has not been determined that the foregoing results apply to ewes grazed on sparse pastures which are dry and hard during most of the year. For three years the bands in which these ewes were run were grazed on foothill or low mountain range on which the feed was at least average in amount, but limited in variety. During the fourth year variety and freshness of feed were good during most of the season.

#### LETTER FROM A SHEPHERD TO HIS PAL

Wickalulu,  
January 1928  
Dear Ern:

As I was telling you, in our lawsuit, where Philander A. Clair's wife is suing us for ten thousand dollars, Phil got everybody outraged and fighting mad. He'd cast his rejuvenated orbs over that lonely lady juror, and they had carried Thelma, Phil's spouse, out on a stretcher. The foreman of the jury got up and stated that as far as they was concerned they was ready to give the plaintiff a verdict right then and there. Then our lawyer came in with a oral broadside and pointed out, delicately but firmly, that that was no way to deal out justice.

I never heard its equal. He laid down the plea that Philander A. Clair was a natural anthropological throwback, and went right on to say what sort of critter that is. A throwback, Ern, is where a man who is born during one of the recent administrations is marked with the kind of character that was going out of date as far back as the twelfth century. Our lawyer then went into details, telling

us what the twelfth century days was like. In those times, Ern, humanity was just a sweltering agglomeration of bipeds that milled around on earth without any specific purpose whatsoever. They was a forlorn lot, those ancients. They had no phonographs, no autos, and no railroads. They couldn't even tell what time of the day it was, for they had no watches.

There was no Republican Party those days, and the land was ruled by kings, princes, and dukes. They were the only one as could read, and most of 'em couldn't make good even on that point. Well, anyway, things was in a backward state that way. Kings and queens of the blood royal ate with their fingers, for they had no knives and forks. They had no bath rooms, and when the queen got to feeling unsanitary the king would have the Court Chamberlain take her down to the creek, where a knight would souse her with a water bucket.

Now, when I tell you that that was the way the royal folks lived, you can imagine Ern, what the common taxpaying herd was like, can't you? About the only luxury they had was a common brand of halitosis, and they didn't know that by its right name.

Well, as you might expect, such primitive conditions would natcherally tend to leave a strong imprint on the sons and daughters of those times. Ever once in a while you find a case that hasn't got out from under the influence to this day. Take a pronounced case like that and you call it a throwback.

Also, a throwback, Ern, is liable to do most anything under the sun. At election time he scatters his vote regardless and impedes the legitimate progress of all the running candidates. He's not content unless he's on the front page of the newspapers. And there's a lot of stuff he pulls off that you can only darkly hint at. That's because his mind reverts back to those musty dead centuries, when people had no telephones and couldn't get so well acquainted. He still feels that sense of security that was born in the days when he lived in a cave.

Anyway, Ern, that's the sort of man Philander A. Clair was. Of course, Thelma's lawyer ripped the daylight out of that theory and said that it had no bear-

ing on the case, and that it was the uncertain Medetereanean ancestry of our goats that had upset Phil's moral equilibrium. But our lawyer came back in good style, and when the case went to the jury I felt a big ray of hope that all was not lost yet.

Doc was awfully interested in the defense; and we all was keyed up as to the verdict. The sheriff took the jury to lunch, and we all took a recess. By and by we went back to the court house to see what was doing.

Imagine our surprise! The sheriff came running to meet us. He was all excited. "The jury has been tampered with," he yelled. "The lady juror is missing."

By golly, Ern, he told the truth. While we stood around speculating on where she'd gone, a boy came with a note and handed it to the sheriff. He tore open the envelope. It was from the lady juror.

"Gentlemen and fellow-jurors," it read. "After listening to defense counsel describe Philander A. Clair's trouble I was swept with a wave of profound sympathy. So that when Mr. Clair approached me with the suggestion that I go with him to some distant place to accomplish his reform, I felt it to be my duty to accompany him for that purpose. At any rate, I vote not guilty, and trust you gentlemen will not do anything that would interfere with my program with regard to Mr. Clair's reform."

Sincerely yours,  
Doris Dresden."

With a yell of rage the sheriff crumpled up the note. "Wait till I catch up with them!"

"Then what will you do?" says our lawyer.

"Jail him for tampering with a jury," says the sheriff.

Well, he might at that, Ern. But we are in the clear. That jury couldn't function now, and the case Thelma A. Clair vs. The Tomboy Sanitarium, Dr. Kartoff et al. was dismissed.

Well, I got to close. There's a Mexican Senator here wants to try our goat treatment, and I've got to hunt up a suitable critter and get them acquainted.

Your friend and pal.

Richard A. Wormwood.



# THE WOOL SACK

## Further Wool Contracts

Contracting in western states has continued fairly active until the close of the first week in January, when it was reported that sales were becoming frequent. Some of the buying interests had been rather frankly critical of their competitors for "the unnecessary advancing of prices." It remains to be seen whether attempts will be made to contract extensively later on at lower figures or whether the lessening of activity was due to growers' insistence on stronger prices.

The contracting at Soda Springs, on January 2nd of 40,000 fleeces from seven flocks running chiefly to three-eighths blood wools was reported at 37½ cents per pound.

Considerable interest was shown in the

taking of the Jericho pool at 35 cents, which compared with 30¾ cents paid last spring. However, in the later contract a discount of one per cent for tags was allowed. The winter range of the Jericho flocks is reported in good condition with considerable snow cover. This fact together with the good condition of the sheep last fall and the frequent fall showers indicated a materially lighter shrinkage and better quality than characterized the 1927 clip.

Two of Montana's large and good clips were secured at 40 cents. There had been some activity in Texas' spring wools at around 40 cents, but at the first of the year it was reported from San Angelo that 42 cents had been agreed to and a small number of superior clips.

in 1922, 19¾ cents in 1921 and 71 cents in 1920.

Reduced to percentage, this year's price of 35 cents is almost 6 cents below the average price for the nine years, 1920 to 1928. Or setting aside the "shock" years of 1920 and 1921, this year's figure is 4¾ cents below the average of the seven years, from 1922 to 1928. Other interesting percentages may be worked out at leisure, though perhaps the average wool man may be more interested in looking back over only the short year since the 1927 clip was contracted. Last year's Jericho price was considered low, but this year's figure is believed to be right on the market. The comparison is modified by the fact that last year's price was flat, while the latest price is subject to a one per cent discount for tags. Further, the advance of \$1.00 a head, without interest, means a little addition increment to the grower members of the pool.

Other pools have shared with the Jericho people in attracting the attention of the wool trade. Other notable contracts have included the Manti wools in central Utah, involving about 2,000,000 pounds, at 34 to 35¾ cents; the Blackfoot wools in the Triangle, about 600,000 pounds, 34½ to 35 cents; the Rexburg wools at 35.55 cents; the Idaho Falls wools at 35 cents; the Boise wools in southern Idaho; the Lakeview wools in southern Oregon at 31¼ to 32 cents; large weights of wool in southern Utah at 31 to 32 cents; around Casper and Douglas in Wyoming at 32 to 33 cents; the Kelton wools in northern Utah at 35 cents; the Murray clip in Utah at 36 cents; the Victor clip in Idaho at 36 cents; and various lots and smaller pools in various sections, the above being only a partial and imperfect list.

The end of the month saw a definite and decided break made into the ranks of the Montana growers, and it is estimated that 3,000,000 to 4,000,000 pounds is already under contract in that state. Notable prices paid are 37 cents for the Glasgow clip, 38¾ cents for the Reservation wools, which sold a year ago at 35 cents, and 40

## The Boston Wool Market

By H. A. Kidder

Much has happened in the wool world during December. Strength at home and abroad has been the shining light toward which all eyes have been directed. Good clearances have been made in all foreign markets, auctions or whatever, with prices showing a constant strength, even an upward trend. This has been especially true of the Boston market, where foreign wools are at a low ebb and domestic wool stocks greatly depleted. Mill buying has been steady, and scarcely spectacular, though occasional spurts have served to enliven the situation and encourage operators.

Outside of the above, the really big thing in the situation has been the wave of contracting which broke over the market in the early days of December. This was about five weeks ahead of the opening date of the contracting of the 1927 clip, and may be regarded as a direct result of conditions existing in the Boston market. Prior to that time only desultory contracts had been made, mainly on the western slope in Colorado and in north-eastern Utah around Vernal. Some of the contracts buttoned up in November had been made at practically last season's

figures, and a few at a small advance.

When the big movement got under way little attention was paid to the matter of what prices ruled last January, but both buyers and sellers made the best trade they could under the conditions existing today. As a result, the bulk of the contracted wools have cost the buyer 2 to 4 cents a pound advance over last season's figures for the same clips. In at least one case, the Jericho pool, the advance was 4¾ cents, with a fractional modification on account of one per cent allowance for tags. Once under way, there seemed to be no way to stop the movement, until as this is written estimates current in the wool trade indicate a possible weight of wool contracted running up to 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 pounds. Nor is the end yet in sight.

The very latest noteworthy addition to the list of pools contracted is that at Jericho, where practically 900,000 pounds was taken over by the same buyer that bought last year's pool, Draper & Company of Boston, the price paid being 35 cents. This compares with 30¾ cents in 1927, 34½ cents in 1926, 42 cents in 1925, 42 cents in 1924, 51 cents in 1923, 43 cents

cents for the Stillwater pool and another reputation pool.

The three states of Idaho, Utah and Colorado are estimated to be fully 60 to 70 per cent under contract, and the weight contracted in all sections 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 pounds. No effort has been made to make up a complete list of the contracts to date and the prices paid. Nor is such a list possible here, as some of the operators are withholding the essential particulars of their most important contracts. What has been done has been without help from the state of Texas, the largest producer in the whole family of states.

As previously indicated as the probability, it has been found that the high prices paid for the fall clip in that state have given most growers an exalted idea of the value of their clips. At this writing, none of the better wools, such as both dealers and manufacturers are eager to get, have been contracted, nor does it seem likely that anything can be done as the growers are demanding 40 to 45 cents, which eastern buyers say is at least 5 cents too high. Therefore, operations in that state are at a standstill, though since the news came from Montana that 40 cents had been paid there, the possibility of later trading does not seem quite so remote.

All these things have had little to do with the Boston market, except the slight stimulus to asking prices that comes from the advances established in western primary markets. The wools now being contracted will not be available for months, not until June in Montana and not for three or four months, even in the states where shearing comes off early. The earliest of the new wools, outside of Arizona, which is in a class by itself, will be the sections where the weather permits shearing before lambing. No domestic renewal of depleted stocks is possible before February, and then only in a moderate way.

It is easy to speculate as to the possibility of better prices ruling in this market before the new clip wools come on the market, but there will undoubtedly be a tremendous resistance to further price advances from the manufacturing side of the industry. Everything points to a keen fight between buyers and sellers through

the remainder of the current clip season. Further, it is believed that the prices paid on the Territory contracts are far from meeting approval of mill buyers.

The more sanguine among the wool operators are looking for a slow but steady advance in wool prices, until Boston market prices reach the important point. This is predicated upon the hope that foreign markets remain on present levels without material change. From the mill side comes the prediction that price movement will continue to show similar wave lengths to those during the past year, and that whatever measure of advance is established, can not help but be small.

If Boston succeeds in advancing domestic wool prices to the importing point, and foreign primary market recede from present levels, even fractionally, the way will be opened for the importation of foreign wools to come into direct competition with domestic sorts. Latest reports available indicate that shipments of wool from Australia to the United States for the season from July 1 to the middle of December were only 21,000 bales, compared with 51,000 bales for the same period last year, and the latter was also considered abnormally low. Similar conditions of shipments are noted in the River Plate markets, though the tenseness of the situation is somewhat modified by the demand here for medium wools and crossbreds.

Present indications are that competition from Australia during the first half of 1928 must of necessity be small, though it is recognized that it is not yet too late to get a good weight of wool at the Colonial auctions, provided American buyers are willing to pay the price, and buyers from Bradford and the Continent allow them to have their way.

Prices in this market are rather irregular, but on the whole are showing moderate increases over last week's figures. Material reduction is noted in current stocks of the wools most wanted by the mills. For choice fine and fine medium staple Territory, the general quotation is still \$1.12 to \$1.15 clean, though some choice lots are held at \$1.17, and some dealers say that the better range for standard wools is \$1.14 to \$1.17. This grade is getting to be pretty scarce, with some of

the larger houses entirely sold out.

As good French combing wools have been popular all the season with mill buyers, that they should have been advanced at this time is not considered strange. Standard lots are selling at \$1.08 to \$1.10 for choice and \$1 to \$1.05 for average. Half-blood staple is also showing more strength, best lots having recently sold at \$1.05 to \$1.07, with average lots bringing \$1 to \$1.03. Fine clothing wools are strongly held at 95 cents to \$1, and dealers say it is not at all difficult to get the higher figure for such lots as are suitable for the use of the French combers.

The position of medium wools continues strong, with prices a bit higher than they were a month ago. Current quotations are 95 to 98 cents clean for three-eighths-blood staple and 85 to 88 cents for quarter-blood staple. These prices are for standard sorts, average lots selling at 92 to 94 cents for three-eighths-blood and 82 to 84 cents for quarter-blood. There is still a little Territory low quarter-blood left unsold, but the remainder is in strong hands. The current clean quotation is 80 cents asked.

The position of fleece wools is very strong from the standpoint of the holders of the remaining standard lots, though those who are down to bare boards deprecate any advance at this time, on account of the possible adverse effect for the marketing of the coming clip. The 50-cent mark has been reached for the choice lots of both half-blood and quarter-blood combing, though it takes something better than the usual run of Ohio wool, say the best western Pennsylvania clips, to bring the extreme prices. Delaines have sold during the month at 47 cents, 47½ cents and even at 48 cents, and three-eighths-blood combing has sold at 47½ cents. It is fair to say that all the four leading grades of Ohio and similar wools are hovering around the 48-cent mark, with occasional choice lots bringing more money. Fine unwashed is quoted at 40 to 41 cents, sales during the month having been within the range of 39 to 41 cents.

Late in December there was quite a flurry in this market in pulled and scoured wools suitable for the use of the woolen mills. Not only were the mills buying steadily and freely, but there was consid-

erable speculative trading between dealers. Prices strengthened under this influence. Scoured lots, Territory, New Mexico and similar, have been advanced 5 to 10 cents, and the same is true of California carbonized and scoured wools and Punta scoured slipes. Territory scoureds have sold up to \$1.10 for best lots and \$1 to \$1.05 for No. 1 New Mexico's.

The feeling here is very strong as the year ends, as may be inferred from the volume of contracts reported from the West, and the prices being paid therefor. Though Bradford appears to have discounted a possible decline in Colonial markets after the Holiday, and is selling 64s tops a penny or more below top quotations of the month, trade opinion here does not forecast lower markets down under, except for poorer wools. Everything depends upon the success of the coming heavy weight season, but as the opening is expected to be late this year, a large proportion of the 1928 Territory clips seems likely to be placed under contract before any help or hindrance can come from foreign primary markets.

#### A PUBLIC DOMAIN BILL

A number of bills relating to the public domain are reported to have been introduced in the present session of Congress. Intention to ask for the transfer of title to the states of all the lands in the public domain and national forests has been announced by some Representatives.

The only one of such bills that has so far been reported to the Wool Grower as having been regularly presented is Congressman Colton's bill, H. R. 7950. The bill embodies proposals prepared by a committee made up of representatives of Utah farm and live stock organizations with whom were associated representatives of the state agricultural experiment station and of the Forest Service. The bill, however, refers to the public domain generally and would require that all users of the public domain should obtain permits from the Department of the Interior

Local boards would be established to advise and cooperate with the Secretary of the Interior and his representatives in the granting and renewing of grazing permits. The charges would be "the lowest possible consistent with benefits received." Fifty

per cent of the collections would be paid to the states and twenty-five per cent used for range improvements. Appeals would be made to the register of the local land office and from him to the General Land Office at Washington.

#### A TREATMENT FOR GARGET IN EWES

For many years I have read of the inquiries relative to a "cure" for mammitis or garget and have only seen replies that are practically evasive. I wish to state, as a prelude to what follows here, that I am not advertising any firm or otherwise trying to sell anything, but merely endeavoring to aid those who are interested in saving their ewes.

This is the second year that I have tried the treatment I now am using and find that the better one understands the work, the more thorough and effective are the results obtained.

First, give the afflicted ewe about three tablespoons full of salts to cleanse bowels and keep them free. Place the ewe in a cool, dry, sheltered place where she is free from disturbance and easily handled. Then give a hypodermic injection of camphorated oil, 2 cubic centimeters, (C. C.) the first day, then 1 C. C. the next day, and use this alternating dosage as long as the ewe is in the fever stage. Each morning and evening bathe the udder in water as hot as the flesh will stand without burning, the water, 1 gallon, to contain  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a teaspoonful of salts (Epsom). When the pores of the udder are thoroughly opened by the use of bathing with hot water (applied with a flannel cloth) massage freely for 20 minutes with Phycamphol ointment. I use Phycamphol ointment that is made by the Pitman Moore Co. of Indianapolis, as their method of manufacture insures no blisters, is in no way painful to the animal, is very cooling, and prevents fever.

The camphorated oil I use is made up in 2 C. C. vials, a dozen in a package and is the same as is used for the human family. I use R. R. Rogers' manufacture, but others may be as good. The use of the camphorated oil injection (used in foreleg) is to stimulate heart action.

When this formula is properly followed, within two hours the animal often times is relieved enough to get up and start eating when she has previously refused food for three or four days. The above treatment is not costly and any one can easily follow the directions and save many ewes or cows that are otherwise ruined.

The only implements and ingredients used are as follows: implements, hypodermic syringe, a five or ten C.C. capacity, cost \$5.00; Epsom salts, 25 cents; ointment Phycamphol, \$1.50; camphorated oil, \$1.50; iodine to sterilize place of injection and sterilize needle. Mammitis in cows can be controlled in the same way but necessitates a large dosage.

Eugene C. Tribble, President,  
American Romney Breeders  
Association.

#### FOUNDING A CHOICE FLOCK

*This article was written by one who signs himself "Sundowner" and appeared in the March 1, 1927, issue of the New Zealand Farmer. It is not concerned with stud breeding, but with the establishment of a flock of first-class grade sheep, particularly suited to the country in which they are run and capable of netting their owners high profits. It is not a new subject to Wool Grower readers, but so well treated that it should prove interesting as well as profitable reading.*

There are quite a number of farmers, who, while not wishing to establish a stud flock, would like to have a first-class lot of grade sheep on the farm with which they could experiment in breeding, with the object of evolving a type of sheep especially suited to their own locality. This desire should most certainly be encouraged, for it will tend to benefit the farmer in several directions. First, by giving him a particular interest in the laws of breeding, which means that he will learn to mate his sheep intelligently to produce stock of similar or even better type; second, by enabling him to compare the points of those sheep that do well with those which fail to thrive on his farm, and thirdly, by rapidly raising the whole standard of his flock in constitution, frame, wool and early maturity.

#### Types That "Do" Well

To pursue such a course as we have suggested it is not usually necessary to purchase any particular line of sheep; all the farmer need do is to start on his own flock. There are always sheep in the average flock which appeal to the owner as being really good. These will be found to be level along the back line, broad across shoulders, loins and hips, deep through from the back to the brisket, with belly line



almost parallel with back line, or to put it briefly, with a body shaped like a brick.

The legs, according to the breed, would be short, with the hams well let down, giving the appearance of a straight line from the tail to the hocks, and the thighs full and plump. The brisket will be found to be prominent, the neck short and strong, carrying a smallish head set on as though it belonged—i.e., a continuation of the neck and not a clumsy appendage hanging on a "ewe" neck. There would be found to be unusual breadth between prominent, bright eyes, good width under the head between the jaw-bones, a broad nose with big nostrils and a fairly big mouth.

These are the things a man would find in the sheep that was doing well on his farm, whatever its breed or type of wool, for they are indications of constitution and form, and without constitution each animal will look to be the scrubber it is.

#### When and How to Select

The first thing the farmer must do, then, is to draft out all those ewes which come up to his standard of first-class sheep, in so far as form and constitution are concerned, ruthlessly culling out every ewe that shows weakness or lack of development in head and chest, for in a round, deep chest and well formed head lie the sure indications of the all-important constitution.

Presuming that this selection is taking place prior to shearing and that all the ewes are "wet" ewes—for dry ewes with their extra condition and wool growth might prove misleading as to real quality—the farmer goes through these selected sheep for quality of wool.

Each farmer has his own opinion as to what constitutes really good wool in the particular breed of sheep which he fancies, but it may be accepted as a general principle that the wool he should strive to grow is the longest stapled, sound and bright wool, while the more dense the fleece is the better.

It is quite useless striving by breeding or any other method, except improving the pasture, to grow sheep bigger in frame or heavier in fleece than the country will naturally produce, be the breed Lincoln, Romney or any other, but this does not mean that the farmer should be content with any class of wool, but should select always the sheep carrying the very best fleeces, even in type and well grown. These sheep should be marked distinctly from those first chosen for constitution and form, and the marketing should be done with indelible pencil or other means on the face, or by opening the wool, on the skin of shoulder or elsewhere.

#### The Three Flocks

The sheep now are roughly classed into three lots—first, those which most nearly approach the ideal in constitution, form and wool; second, those having good constitution and form, but wool which is not of the best; and third, those which for lack of constitution and form are rejected, however attractive their wool may appear to be.

These sheep, with lots one and two clearly but not permanently marked go to shearing, and possibly at weaning time the farmer makes his final selection.

With the wool off the sheep, number one flock can be carefully gone through to correct any misjudgments of form or indications of weak constitutions, usually these rejects can be drafted into flock number two, and this flock in turn, undergoing the same careful scrutiny will have its rejects drafted into flock number three. The two flocks comprising the first and second choice should now be definitely and permanently marked, either by earmarking or face branding that they may be readily

drafted from the balance of the flock at any time desired.

#### Buying the Rams

The chosen number one flock will give the owner a fairly clear idea of the type of rams which he must strive to secure for his sheep. They must, of course, be absolutely sound as regards constitution and form, with wool of similar, and if possible, better type than that of his best ewes, and should be secured from a breeder whose country and climatic conditions are as nearly as possible the same as the farmer's own. This means that, provided the quality is procurable, it pays to buy rams from as near home as possible. The size of the rams, or, for that matter, of the ewes, is of very secondary importance, as one cannot profitably grow big sheep on light country, and good country will ultimately grow big sheep even though the parents may be on the small side. In any case smaller sheep are quite likely to prove the most profitable in the near future in view of the demand for small joints, combined with the fact that more small sheep can be carried on a given area.

In purchasing the rams the very greatest pains should be taken to ensure that they are exactly what is wanted as far as their own conformation and wool is concerned, and more important still, that they have come from a long line of for-bears, preferably "line bred," of the same type and with the same predominating characteristics. We say "preferably line bred" because it has been our experience that sheep which are the descendants of families which have had out-crosses introduced from time to time, are much less likely to throw stock true to type, and nothing is more discouraging than a mixed crop of lambs from good, even ewes.

A guinea or two extra for a first pick of a good line of rams should never be grudged for a moment. Remember that each season while he is in use that ram is going to brand the offspring from fifty or more ewes, and between the value of a good and bad "get" for ultimate breeding purposes there is a difference of shillings per head.

#### Selecting For Breeding

When the rams are bought and safely at home examine each with especial care. "Waste" half an hour to an hour with each one examining every detail of wool and carcass. See how he stands and walks, and note every peculiarity together with a record of his breeding in a notebook for future reference. When you have done this, sort the rams into three lots, the first grade to be put to your choicest ewes, the next to flock number two and so on.

#### Culling For Sale

After tugging, the ewes being separately marked, can be run together if desired, but it is advisable in order to save trouble at marketing to have them lambing in separate paddocks or blocks.

Only the ewe lambs from flocks numbers one and two are distinctly marked, and when culling in the second year, after those sheep which are being rejected on account of age have been taken out, draft the rejects from number one flock into number two and so on. This will serve always to raise the standard of the whole flock, for those surplus sheep annually sold as stores or fatts will naturally come from flock number three and will be the poorest constituted sheep on the farm.

This program of working with three flocks of ewes on one farm may sound to be a cumbersome affair, but does not prove so in actual practice and in four years the improvement of the whole flock will be so great that it will be hard to recognize the sheep as having sprung from the original stock.

#### The "Inbreeding" Bugbear

If a ram is found to be getting inferior lambs, discard him whatever he may have cost, but where the improvement each year is regular and noticeable, always go back to that family for rams for future use.

Do not be afraid of the bugbear of "inbreeding" for so long as strength of constitution is made the first and imperative consideration inbreeding will do more good than harm in that each year will see the constitution improved by its concentration in sire and dam, while all other inherited virtues can be looked for with confidence in the offspring where ram and ewe are related. A violent outcross is at all times to be avoided unless a complete change of type is contemplated, and it will then take probably a number of years to again secure evenness of type.

#### RECEIPTS OF SHEEP OF THE DENVER MARKET

Sheep receipt at Denver totaled 1,916,114 during 1927, an increase of 90,000 head over the 1,825,922 received in 1926. Due to short feeding in northern Colorado during the fall of 1926, Denver's receipts from this section decreased about 200,000 during the spring, this decrease being carried into the fall. Receipts during the fall increased about 300,000 head over 1926.

Although receipts from Colorado for the year decreased 120,000 for the above reason, receipts from practically all other states showed a substantial increase at Denver over 1926. In this respect, Utah led by marketing 157,000 in 1927 compared to 68,000 in '26, an increase of about 90,000 head or 140 per cent. A large part of this increase came from Utah feed lots during the spring which was also true with Idaho. That state increased her marketing at Denver 50,000 head or 40 per cent during the year. Montana shipped 20,000 to Denver in '27 compared to 5,000 in '26. Oregon had 59,000 this year compared to 32,000 last. New Mexico increased from 193,000 in 1926 to 222,000 in 1927. California had 14,400 at Denver this year and 8,000 last while Washington shipped 4,500 to Denver in '27 compared to 1,500 in '26.

During the year sheep receipts for one day broke the previous record when 69,675 head were received on October 10th. All the larger packers have been represented at Denver this year and have bought liberally for outside points. The distribution of lambs to many points, effected by concentration and selling to packers at this point has undoubtedly been of much benefit to the industry.

L. M. Pexton.



# News and Views of the Lamb Markets

## CHICAGO

Winter lamb trade has been anything but encouraging to corn-belt feeders and the prospect is by no means luminous. December receipts were in excess of expectation, each Monday developing an excess supply at eastern markets and strong week-end finishes refused to "stay put".

At the middle of the month a bad break developed, resulting in a burdensome carry-over nightly. From a \$14.50 top early in the month that price broke until \$13.35 was the limit at the low period of the week ending December 17. Subsequently improvement appeared, the \$14 quotation being reinstated during the holiday week, but the undertone was at all times weak and especially in the case of overweight, plain and shorn lambs, the clearance was forced. Ten major markets received around 1,075,000 lambs during the month, or 70,000 more than a year ago, this reckoning ignoring receipts at a number of minor eastern markets, which were continuously heavy. The situation was not improved by a Washington guesstimate issued at the middle of the month concerning the volume of winter feeding west of the Missouri River, especially in the case of Nebraska and Colorado, which was disconcerting to say the least. To evade this competition corn-belt feeders began unloading regardless of condition, and too many merely warmed up lambs reported. Feeders took this horn of the dilemma, as running into longer feeds invited weight discrimination, the sequence being a lot of half-fat light lambs, an excess of the overweight kind and a paucity of finished handyweights for which shippers were always ready to pay a premium.

On the break lambs weighing 100 to 130 pounds had to be content with \$11@11.75, according to heft and a considerable number of finished 92 to 100-pound lambs went over the scales at \$12@13. Late in the month \$13.75@14 was paid for the pick of the crop, but heavy lambs did not respond to the short-lived improvement. Around the Christmas holidays the market was practically bare for

several days, but the response was indecisive and the first indication of an upward trend attracted so many lambs from feed lots near Chicago as to literally swamp the market. At the low spot during the week of December 17 top lambs dropped to \$13.25 and \$12@13.25 took the bulk of the crop.

Depressing influences all through the month were:

Overloaded eastern live mutton markets, unfavorable lamb consumption temperatures, and a constant accumulation at Atlantic seaboard points. Possible cheap pork exerted an influence.

Marketing in belated manner a grist of native lambs that had been putting on cheap gains all fall and were held back in anticipation of a high December market in consequence of the light summer and fall purchase of western lambs by corn-belt farmer feeders.

Determination, on the strength of the government estimate of Colorado and Nebraska winter feeding to clean up western lambs in corn-belt feed lots.

Features of the month were:

A continuous free movement of native lambs, most of them overdue and carrying weight. This supply fell off sharply after the middle of the month.

Excessive grist of merely warmed up lambs dislodged by the advertised Colorado run. Lack of feeder demand, for such lambs, many of which were too heavy for carrying along, was a factor. Shipments of "comeback" lambs to the country were few. A declining fat lamb market did not encourage investment for late winter feeding.

A surplus of weight, lambs weighing 90 pounds and up.

Lack of reception for shorn lambs. Nearly everything reaching the market with the wool off lost feeders money.

Reflection in dressed trade of the handicap on heavy carcasses, the spread between heavies and handyweights in the carcass being \$4 to \$5 per hundredweight.

A stagnant trade at intervals, necessitating carrying consignments over night.

Thousands of half-fat lambs were unloaded in December to get them out of the way of the impending run from west of the Missouri River and to avoid penalization for weight. Carrying them into decent finish involved two hazards, overweight and western competition.

The spurt early in the last week of December was deceptive and was due to a paucity of finished light and handyweight lambs eligible to shipper competition. Unfinished light and overweight stock were always hard to sell. Lambs weighing 85 pounds down, in finished condition, always had competition.

There was a dead-level, steady trade in mature muttons all through the month.

The top was \$14.50 early in December. It did not drop below \$13.65 any week, but on the low day was \$13.35. An epitome of the trade by weeks follows:

Week ending December 3—Top lambs, \$14.50; bulk, \$13.75@14.25. Top feeders, \$14.05; bulk, \$13@14. Yearlings, \$10.25@11.50. Fat ewes, top, \$6.85; bulk, \$6@6.75.

Week ending December 10—Top lambs \$14.40; bulk, \$13.50@14.15. Top feeders, \$13.85; bulk, \$13.25@13.75. Fat ewes, \$6@7.

Week ending December 17—Top lambs, \$14.25; bulk, \$12.25@13.75. Top feeders, \$14; bulk, \$12.50@13.75. Yearlings, \$10.25@11.35. Fat ewes, top, \$7.25; bulk, \$6@6.75.

Week ending December 24—Top lambs, \$13.65; bulk, \$12@13. Top feeders, \$13.85; bulk, \$11.75@12.85. Yearlings, \$9.50@11. Fat ewes, \$6@7. Ohio-fed wethers, 115 pounds, made \$9.50.

Week ending December 31—Top lambs, \$14; bulk, \$12.50@13.75. Top feeders, \$12.50; bulk, \$11.75@12.25. Fat ewes \$6@7.

During the final week 78 to 90-pound finished lambs sold at \$13@13.75; 92 to 98-pound, \$12.75@13. 95-pound, fall shorn lambs at \$11.75 and 85 to 90-pound yearlings at \$9.50@10. Good 68-pound feeders went to the country at \$12.50. Trade in breeding stock practically disappeared. At the end of 1926 \$13.25 was the top on lambs, \$12.25@13 taking the bulk.

The winter market will be an off-again-on-again affair, but at the beginning of January there did not appear to be even a remote prospect of putting prices up, indications being that every 25-cent upturn will flood the market. This is what happened the last week of December when 25 cents was put on one day, vanishing the next when the country responded with a glut.

Regardless of the accuracy of the government winter supply guess, which can be determined only when the crop is in, there will be plenty of lambs to go around right along. Two million head during the winter season is equal to three million on a summer run figured on a tonnage basis and this year the West is in the same dangerous situation as two years back; loaded to the guards with weight. The market is on a two-way basis; one for finished lambs weighing 85 pounds down, the other for the big brutes. Weights of 85 to 90 pounds

promise to sell at a 50-cent discount under light stock; 90 to 95 pound at a dollar discount, while in the case of extreme weights there will be a dollar spread. Late in December 81-pound Colorados earned \$13.50 while 98-pound Colorados were set back to \$12.50. Lambs weighing 90 pounds or more are not eligible to the eastern outlet; they are a packer proposition and that tells the story. An appeal has been made by Colorado feeders to the packers to support the market and a conference on the subject is contemplated. Green half-fat big lambs are even worse off at the market than if finished as shearers will not give them a pleasant look, and a half-fat 95-pound lamb is a mean actor when the product reaches the dressed market.

Fall shearers have had an unprofitable season. Pelts have been high and packers partial to wool. The spread between comparable grades of wooled and shorn lambs is about \$2 per hundredweight and few clippers have been eligible to more than \$11, although some have reached \$11.75. It has been a \$10 to \$11 market for shorn lambs, prices that fell short of paying the feed bill. Fall shearing is a hazardous operation.

Fat sheep are scarce, otherwise ewes would not be selling around \$7 per hundredweight. Late in December ewes were eligible to that price that would have been set back a dollar had a few more been available. Like the heavy lamb, the trade can take care of a few, but the outlet for both products is limited.

At the beginning of 1927 the top on lambs was \$13.25, the bulk selling at \$12.25@13, with choice 90-pounders at \$12.75 and extreme weights from \$12 down.

The dressed market has been wobbly under excessive supply. At the Atlantic seaboard prime light lambs have sold at \$28, but \$27 has stopped nearly everything and \$24@26 has been the market for popular weights, good heavy lambs selling at \$19@20. Prime show lambs sold at \$30 to \$40. Late in December good to choice heavy carcasses sold at \$20@22; extra weights down to \$18, but weights under 42 pounds were in demand at \$27@27.50. At Chicago 60 to 65-pound carcasses sold as low as \$17; light

lambs at \$25 and 50-pound averages at \$19@23. Good light ewe carcasses were quoted at \$11@14; heavies down to \$18, light wether carcasses making \$16.

J. E. Poole

#### OMAHA

The vision of the \$14 fat lamb returning to the Omaha market during December, as pictured by many salesmen and some buyers alike during the closing days of November, failed to take form, due chiefly to receipts of such volume as were not looked for by anyone until after the first of the new year.

Arrivals at approximately 190,600 head exceeded November's total by about 29,000 and stood nearly 42,000 head heavier than the December run a year ago. Although prices rallied somewhat during the third week under a let-up in supplies, the run picked up again during the final six-day period and this was all lost. Speaking of the month as a whole, the price trend was generally lower with buyers bearish at all times and the close uncovered losses of 80@90 cents from the end of November, with instances showing even more loss.

The entire market smacked of unevenness during the period but this was most pronounced on weighty lambs. At times the latter were penalized as much as \$1, while at others averages around 95 pounds sold right up close to the handies. It was not unusual to see lambs of this weight sell as much as 50 cents apart on the same market. The outlook for weighty kinds is none too promising as this is written.

The scarcity of lambs in the East began to make itself felt during December in the form of vigorous shipping demand most of the time. Both packers and order buyers sought out and took more of the better grades of light and handyweight lambs than they had in a long time and this outlet was a dominant factor in maintaining prices as well as they were. Despite the packers' best efforts, the top could not be forced under the \$12.50 mark.

Top of \$13.65 for the month was paid by order buyers for light lambs during the first week of trade. For the month as a whole bulk of the lambs brought

\$12.25@13.00, most handyweights upwards from \$12.50, with heavies noted as low as \$11.50 at the poorest time.

While feeder buyers didn't exactly crash the gates in view of declining prices on fat stock, demand held up in pretty good shape most of the time and outbound consignments of feeders for the month were among the heaviest in recent years, footing up a little over 29,000 head. Of this number, Nebraska took about 75 per cent.

Prices, however, showed a partly seasonal break, which was accelerated by the actions of the fat lamb market and closing quotations stood all of 75 cents to \$1.00 or more under the end of November. The best kinds, which were conspicuously absent most of the time, were not quotable much above \$12.75 on the wind-up, with pretty good lambs that averaged up to around 70 pounds selling at \$12.25@12.50, and a few up to \$12.65. Medium grades sold down to \$11.75 and less. The month's extreme top in this class was \$13.50, paid during the early trade.

Supplies of aged sheep were small throughout and a broadening in demand for good fat ewes gave the market a healthy tone with prices showing upturns of 25 cents or more for the month. Best handyweight kinds sold largely at \$6.50@6.75, choice kinds up to \$7.00 every now and then. Medium and heavy grades were quoted downwards from \$6.25. Hardly enough feeding or breeding stock was offered to quote, sales being confined to just an occasional bunch of feeder ewes at figures up to \$5.00, with solid-mouthed breeders bringing as high as \$8.00.

K. H. Kittoe.

#### ST. JOSEPH SHEEP MARKET

Sheep receipts for December were 121,853, an increase of 42,000 compared with the same month a year ago. Receipts for the year were 1,349,000, the largest on record at this point, and 46,000 over a year ago. The month's receipts were mostly from nearby territory, and the heaviest December run on record. The lamb market for the month was around \$1.00 lower, best handyweights on the close selling at \$12.75, 91@97-pound averages \$12.00@12.50, and 103-pound

kinds down to \$11.75. Feeding lambs \$12.00@12.25 on late days compared with \$13.00@13.25 a month ago. Aged sheep were strong to 25 cents higher for the month. Most good ewes sold \$6.50 @6.75 during the month, with choice 117-pound Colórados \$7.00 on the extreme close.

H. H. Madden.

### KANSAS CITY

The November lamb market closed with best handyweight lambs selling at \$13.60. December closed with the same kind bringing \$12.85, a drop of 75 cents. The top price for the month, \$13.75, was paid on December 7, 8, 9, and 10, and it was 25 cents under the high point in November. The low point of the month came December 21, at \$12.60, and it was 40 cents under the November low. With both highs and lows under November, the month of December took on a much lower average cost than November, in fact the month made the lowest average of the season.

Normally prices in December are higher than in November. Condition and finish of the offerings average better, and demand for dressed lamb usually expands. The past month however offerings in many classes were not so good as in November and at the same time the December runs carried an unusually large per cent of heavy lambs. Feeders pursued the process of getting rid of the weighty kinds, and they did not crowd the lighter weights with feed.

That part of this winter's fed lambs which has been marketed has lost the feeders money. However the Central West and Southwest has not shipped very freely so that it remains to be seen whether this year's feeding operations prove profitable.

The top price for lambs in December 1926 was only \$12.90, yet prices in January to the middle of April were advanced sufficiently to bring most feeders a good net profit on the season's operations. However conditions now are different from a year ago. The winter of 1926-27 saw more than the usual number of lambs fed east of the Missouri River and fewer west of that line. At the same time as unusually large per cent of the

lambs on feed had been marketed up to January 1, and from then on prices took an upward trend. This season the east section fed less and the west more, and the per cent of lambs marketed to January 1 has been comparatively small.

At the beginning of the New Year western Nebraska and Colorado feeding sections are credited with having two million head of ovine stock on feed. If this supply is disposed of in the first four months of the year, and that is about the limit, before California lambs will be available in large numbers, they will have to be moved at the rate of one-half million monthly. Colorado feeders have lined up the situation closely and have organized an association that will work for an even and broad distribution of this supply, so that no one market will be glutted. If the members of the association stick to this idea lamb prices in the next four months will show a higher average than they would if most producers try to reach only two or three markets.

It will take at least a 14-cent market for feeders to break even, and an average of \$14.50 to \$15 for them to break into the profit column. The principal danger is that too many feeders will hold lambs for marketing in the late months. A good many feeders have been holding lambs on beet tops and other rough feed in sufficient quantity to barely maintain condition and in other cases they are feeding for slow gains.

Unless a change comes this will make too many lambs to market late in the season.

The heavyweight lambs are being discriminated against at all markets and such a large per cent of thin lambs went into feed lots at unusual weights that the heavy weight fat lamb is going to be one of the real marketing problems. They will have to be distributed both as to days as well as to market to get results. The scarcity of fat yearlings, wethers, and ewes may help the heavyweight fat lamb to some extent. The feeder should guard against making any lambs weigh above 90 pounds in as far as it is possible.

The fat sheep offered the past month were ewes at \$5 to \$6.75; yearlings in fleece \$10 to \$11; shorn \$9.25 to \$10.50; wethers \$7.25 to \$8. The price movement for them held within a 25-cent range.

Feeding lambs sold at \$11.50 to \$13.00, but they were mostly cut outs, so that the month's trade was of no material volume.

December receipts were 98,574 compared with 94,303 in the same month 1926. Arrivals in 1927 were 1,615,658 compared with 1,761,893 in 1926, a decrease of 146,235.

C. M. Pipkin.

### NEW ZEALAND WOOL AUCTIONS

Wool auction sales begin about the middle of November, at Wellington, and finish at the end of March, by which time upwards of half a million bales have been disposed of, and their disposal is the subject of this article.

No royal progress is that of the buyer, but a constant jump from center to center. Having arrived at a selling center the smock is immediately donned and the buyer has to rush around the various stores carefully valuing lot by lot with little or no respite. Having inspected the lots to be offered, and marked descriptions in the catalogues, usually about half a dozen, there remain the valuations to be placed against the lots in which he may be interested. This job finished, there follows the sale itself, usually held in a public hall or theatre.

A two-days sale usually begins at 7:30 p. m. and adjourns at midnight, resuming at 9 a. m. on the following morning. One-day sales commence at 9 a. m. From fifty to seventy eager, shrewd buyers of all nationalities are assembled, tier on tier, in the form of an amphitheatre, round the auctioneers' rostrum. Each firm offering wool has its own auctioneer, and these same auctioneers are not less keen-witted than the surrounding buyers. They know the buyers well and understand the business acumen that lies behind the nonchalant air of the representatives of a dozen countries. The up-to-the-minute, even furious methods of the buyers make a sharp intellect and quick wit absolutely essential if the top bid is to be picked out of a shouting, armwaving, catalogue-whirling assembly.

When a farthing a pound is at stake upon a big parcel, the slow man loses the bid.

No one can be satisfied with the dignified nod of the head or a lowering of the



eyes when a choleric colleague, son of a demonstrative race, is shrieking in a high falsetto voice, or leaping furiously from his seat. To the uninitiated, the shouting of the buyers and the urging of the auctioneer is a hopeless pandemonium, but to the man with the hammer it is all intelligible.

There is sometimes much repartee between buyers and auctioneer; but everything moves rapidly forward to a well ordered conclusion. The whole scene is most exciting to the onlookers, who largely consist of wool growers.

The middle range of bidding causes most of the tumult, but the one who knows can see that the auctioneer is watching the bidders whom the lot is most likely to interest. A quiet bid may be slipped in at this stage, but an excited call from the far corner demands attention, and the buyers with more elastic limits bid again and send the price up a few farthings. So the sale proceeds.

With apparent unconcern and well-simulated indifference, men bid for hundreds of pounds worth of wool, while others yell out their bids as if life itself depended on the acquisition of a particular lot. But these men who bid for such rich lots with the equanimity of a small boy buying peanuts know what they are getting.—Irwin & Co., Ltd., Dunedin, N. Z.

### POISON PLANT ERADICATION SAVING LIVE STOCK

Eradication of tall larkspur, a western range plant poisonous to live stock, has passed beyond the experimental stage, and has been extensively done with beneficial results on the national forests, says the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Over a period of several years, larkspur was eradicated from a total of 7,250 acres at an average cost of less than \$5.50 per acre. An additional 8,300 acres where larkspur occurred in small quantities was cleared at about 20 cents per acre. The total cost of this larkspur eradication was \$38,267, more than half of which was paid by interested stockmen. The estimated annual reduction of loss of live stock as a result of this work has been over \$65,000. There have been but few projects where the value of the stock saved has not

been sufficient in one year to cover from one-third to twice the cost of eradication.

The most practical means of eradication has been found to be that of grubbing with a specialty constructed, long-blade mattock.

On the Deschutes National Forest in Oregon, experimental eradication of water hemlock at an initial cost of \$4.83 per acre with a small amount of work in following years resulted in better distribution of stock and eliminated an annual loss of cattle greater than the total cost of eradication.

In the Southwest, studies have been made of the possibilities of eradicating loco by grubbing and of reduction of losses from loco-poisoning by change in the method of range management and in the time of grazing. On several areas eradication has been 90 to 95 per cent effective and apparently has proved practicable from an economic standpoint. Results on the Pike National Forest in Colorado, however, showed no advantage in grubbing at any particular time of the year, and that regrubbing for several years is necessary if any benefit is to be derived.

A thorough test of all possible methods of eradicating loco and rayless goldenrod, or "Jimmy Weed," is being planned at the Santa Rita Range Reserve of the Forest

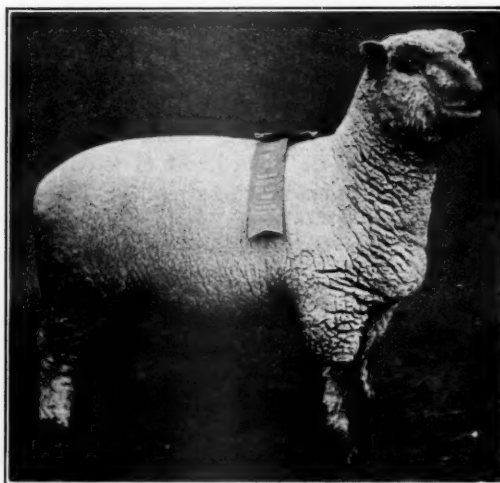
Service in Arizona. Work on other poisonous plants is being continued in the hope of eventually finding satisfactory means for controlling the poisonous plants on all range lands.

### FORMATION OF WESTERN CATTLE- MEN'S SUPPLY COMPANY

The California Wool Growers Association and the California Cattlemen's Association have announced the organization of the "Western Cattlemen's Supply Company." The object of this new company, as stated in the California Wool Grower, will be "to purchase supplies for members of the two associations at the lowest possible cost." Heretofore the purchasing of supplies for sheep and cattlemen has been handled by each association, but the volume of the business has become so large that it has been deemed advisable to have the business handled through a single separate organization.

### CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION MOVES OFFICE

The California Wool Growers Association has announced a change in its office address from 114 Sansome Street to 405 Sansome Street, which is opposite the Federal Reserve Bank, at the corner of Sansome and Sacramento Streets.



### MAKES WORLD RECORD

This Southdown lamb was sold on December 8 at the world's record price of \$5.00 a pound. It was fed and entered in the Los Angeles Fat Stock Show, held during the week of December 5th to 10th by Metzger & Vaughn of Dixon, California. It weighed one hundred pounds and received \$15 in prize money, so that it brought a total of \$515. The South San Francisco Union Stock Yards purchased the lamb, Washburn & Condon of Los Angeles handling the sale.

**AROUND THE RANGE COUNTRY**

(Continued from page 18)

the number of ewes this fall. The price remains at \$12 to \$15 a head, with ewe lambs going at \$10.

The price of land is \$60 to \$80 an acre. This land raises from 25 to 40 bushels of wheat to the acre. My average this year on spring wheat was 34 bushels. This yield may seem high to some of those farmers in the East. I heard a man from Kansas say this fall that he had always heard about 35-bushel wheat, but never believed it until this fall when he helped harvest a crop that yielded 38½ bushels.

L. C. Harwood.

**CALIFORNIA**

Rains have been frequent and of goodly proportions, being generally beneficial to pastures and ranges. Temperatures have been above normal part of the time, thus further favoring the growth of grasses, though previously frosts and cold weather had held back the growth notably. Pastures are considered in rather good condition over the middle and southern valleys, though not quite so flourishing in the northern portion. Mountain snow supplies, and stream flow generally have been below normal.

**NEVADA**

Abnormally cold weather occurred much of the month, and occasional precipitation storms passed over the state, though none were of such severity as to injure or hamper live stock particularly. Moderate feeding has been prosecuted much of the time, as there has been an abundance of hay. Sheep have done well on the desert ranges, as snow covering has been light but general, allowing a wide utilization of the range. Both cattle and sheep are reported in good or satisfactory condition.

**UTAH**

Stockmen are generally satisfied with the condition of live stock and winter ranges. Snow came toward the middle of the month on most winter ranges, and moisture has remained ample up to the early part of January, though more was beginning to be needed locally in southern and eastern sections. Only locally in the west is range feed reported poor. Domestic cattle and sheep have done well, mostly on full feed. Cattle depending partly or

wholly on range forage suffered some shrinkage during the recent cold snap. Feed is reported scarce in a few localities. The farms generally are covered with snow, presaging a good crop year, though much grain was planted late, due to dry weather in the fall.

**Stockton**

Cold and dry weather has prevailed during December, and while the range is in fair condition as to feed, it is not up to the average. Practically no feeding is done here during the winter. Ten dollars a ton is being paid for alfalfa hay in the stack.

We haven't heard of any sales of range land recently, but it should bring around \$5 an acre. It is very difficult to ascertain the carrying capacity of range lands in this district, but they can be used for about nine months of the year. The county valuation on this land is \$4 an acre.

About the same number of ewes have been bred as usual.

Some clips of cross-bred wools have been contracted at 33 cents; do not know the shrinkage of the wools sold.

Coyotes are no fewer; very little being done to kill them.

J. Nebeker &amp; Son.

**COLORADO**

Live stock are mostly in good condition, though recent cold weather caused some shrinkage, especially in the eastern portion. Snow cover has made the range readily accessible in western Colorado, but there is no snow over southeastern areas, and very little in northeastern sections. Large shipments of feeders have been made from the southeast. Grains are greatly in need of snow cover in eastern counties. Much live stock feeding has been necessary generally, especially during the cold snap.

**Dolores**

Early winter weather was generally fair in this locality. Up to the present time (December 10) we have had two slight rainfalls and a snowstorm. Our winter range promises good feed, but it is overstocked. About one-fourth of the ewes are fed during the winter. Alfalfa hay can be had at \$5 to \$10 a ton, measuring 512 cu. ft.

Ewe lambs have been sold at 11 cents

a pound, while yearling ewes have brought \$13 a head and the ordinary run of mixed ages, \$11 to \$12. Loans on breeding ewes are being made by banks and loan companies at \$7 per head.

Coyotes are increasing and nothing is apparently being done about them. I have only seen one government trapper in two years.

Grazing lands are assessed at \$3 to \$5 an acre. The carrying capacity of such lands is about 300 ewes to a section for about four of five months of the year.

Nervin Akin.

**Grand Junction**

About 80 per cent of the sheep around Grand Junction go to Grand County, Utah, to winter. We have just enough snow on the desert for the sheep to do well. We have had no cold weather to bother yet. Have had a few light snows, but the temperature has never fallen below zero up to date (December 26).

Feed on the winter range is good; the best, in fact, it has been for several years. Feeding of ewes depends, in this section, entirely upon the character of the winter. Corn or cotton cake is fed when it is necessary, but very little feeding has been done as yet. From \$8 to \$10 is asked for hay in the stack.

A few more ewes were bred this year than in 1926. The loaning value of ewes in this district is from \$6 to \$8 a head.

All of the wool is contracted here. Cross-bred clips, estimated to shrink around 58 to 62 per cent, were taken at 32 to 35 cents, and the fine-wool clips, shrinking around 64 to 68 per cent, have gone at 30 to 33 cents.

I have not heard of a government trapper in Grand County, Utah, for several years and coyotes are increasing here. There are a few government trappers working in western Colorado.

Grazing lands are assessed at \$2.50 an acre.

Herbert Jolley.

**ARIZONA**

Moderately cold weather prevailed, though warm days at intervals kept grasses growing more or less at the lower levels, and permitted a steady though slow improvement in ranges generally. Cattle are holding up very well, and many are being fattened on irrigated pastures.

tegrity."—(Reprinted from the Scottish Farmer.)

Water has been ample as a rule, and snow cover is reported over most of the northern half of the state. Earlier in the month some slight shrinkages were reported due to comparatively poor ranges.

### NEW MEXICO

Live stock have been favored lately by mild weather, and of course by an abundance of range grass. Recent storms have renewed range water supplies, giving stockmen much consolation, though more moisture is needed in southern counties. Live stock are in good condition, excepting in the southeastern portion. Very little farming has been done because of either dry or frozen ground. There has been little snow cover outside the mountains. Not a great deal of live-stock feeding has been necessary, though some pretty cold weather occurred, causing a little shrinkage.

### WESTERN TEXAS

Ranges have been fairly good generally but are rather short in some west-central counties. Live stock are also from fair to good, having been subject to much cold, rainy weather in large areas of the state. No important live stock losses have been reported, however. The ranges have been benefited gradually, by the rains, but the storms were as snow in much of the Panhandle district.

### MONTANA CLIP SOLD AT BOSTON

The large wool clip of John Etchart of Glasgow shipped on consignment to the National Wool Exchange, Boston, last summer, was sold recently in the original bags at 43 cents, according to Murray E. Stebbins, secretary of the Montana Co-operative Wool Marketing association, through which organization an advance of 20 cents per pound was made at the time of shipment.

The National Wool Exchange has marketed several other Montana clips on which the net returns made to the growers were in excess of 37 cents. The average price received by the growers selling at home was around 33½ cents, states Mr. Stebbins, while the clips contracted during the winter were by far the cheapest.

a retaliation from western consumers of factory production.

Growers who held their clips until shearing time realized better values than those who contracted.

The Montana wool clip of 1927 is said to have been the best ever produced in this state and to have shown abnormally low shrinkages. As a result the dealers made handsome profits on their purchase.

### FAMOUS SCOTTISH SHEPHERD PASSES

Word has been received of the death of Mr. Alexander Millar at Shieldhill, Newton Mearns, Scotland, during the early part of December. Mr. Millar was a well known and beloved figure in the pastoral industry of his native country, but is perhaps better known to American sheepmen through his son, William Millar, shepherd and breeder of Mt. Pleasant, Utah. Mr. "Alick" Miller, another son, is also more or less familiar to Wool Grower readers through his winnings at the International Sheep Dog Trials, which have been reported occasionally in our columns.

"Alexander Millar was a shepherd of the old-time type. Age apart, there was something in his unobtrusiveness which suggested bygone times. Always 'douce' in appearance, he radiated the atmosphere of long ago. Devotion to his work was his pre-eminent characteristic. For those whom he served he labored faithfully for long years. He knew sheep as few shepherds do, and was always diligent in the care of his flock. And, as there is no good shepherd without a good flock, and no good flock without a good dog, so he delighted in good dogs, and was never without one. \*\*\* Unaffected simplicity characterized his talk. He was unaggressive and never malicious. Evil speaking he abhorred. Never parading, or even talking about, his beliefs, he was essentially a religious man. Temperate and thrifty he always was, his wants being few and simple. He reared a large family with commendable care, and lived to see them all prospering at home and in foreign lands. He endowed none of them with wealth, but he bequeathed to them something infinitely more precious—the heritage of a character sterling in its in-

### THE BEEF BOYCOTT

(Continued from page 12)

years which were ruinously low to the cattle growers. This year, for the first time since 1920, cattle men as a whole have received fairly remunerative prices for their cattle.

"In the other six years cattle prices were so low most of the time that large numbers of producers were forced out of business and cattle numbers have been drastically reduced." The Secretary's statement also suggested that the action of the Boston interests might result in similar movements in western producing territories that are large buyers of the products of Massachusetts' factories. Chambers of commerce in a number of western states issued public statements and forwarded protests to the Boston Chamber of Commerce. The Monte Vista, Colorado, stockmen refused to buy merchandise bearing Boston or Massachusetts marks of origin.

The National Live Stock and Meat Board through its Chairman Mr. J. H. Mercer also came to the defense of the cattle raisers and intimated that western consumption of eastern goods might be injured.

Apparently this course of action has produced a change in the attitude of Boston interests. The Hotel Association issued a further statement in which they said, "It is not and has never been our intention to disturb the interests of those concerned in the beef and allied industries."

The President of the Boston Chamber of Commerce advised producers' organizations that "this chamber understands that no action to injure beef producing interests was intended." His statement also expressed the hope that "in view of the misunderstanding and possible consequent injustice to the West and to New England" the facts as later presented should receive as wide publicity as was given the original unfortunate statement of the hotel men.

Apparently the boycott is a thing of the past, and though some damage was done a better understanding of the beef situation has resulted and it can be expected that eastern states will go slowly before proposing action that may cause



### AT THE BALDWIN RANCH

Mr. W. C. Clos, who has recently contributed several articles to the Wool Grower, and who has been engaged by the Russian Commission to accompany to Russia the ten thousand unregistered Rambouillet ewes purchased from the Baldwin Sheep Company, wrote the Wool Grower while waiting at the company's headquarters for shipping orders for himself and the sheep.

"Being present when Professor Sinitzky and Mr. Pereferkovitsch made their selections from the Baldwin flocks gave me an excellent opportunity to observe not only the sheep, but also ever so many other things pertaining to this wonderful place. I consider it a rare privilege and a real pleasure to make the acquaintance of Mr. Sanderson, manager, and his amiable wife, and my unexpected wait here has proven to be a very interesting and profitable experience.

"The Baldwin Sheep Company is one of the largest concerns of its kind in the United States. It owns some 50,000 acres of land, and in addition to that, it has leases controlling about 150,000 acres more, all located in central Oregon. The comparatively low altitude (3000 feet at the home ranch and a rise to 6000 feet on the summer range area, with continuous ownership, which thus obviates all long drives and consequent losses), and the favorable climate enable the management to operate on a very extensive scale,—50,000 sheep, nearly all of them Rambouillets, over 300 Hereford cattle, and a large number of well bred saddle and draft horses. All the feed necessary to supplement their year-long grazing and pasture lands is raised on the ranch; the hay crop alone for this year amounts to over 4000 tons.

"The sheep appealed to me from start to finish as soon as I saw them—and such a lot of them, ten thousand sold and four times that many left. It was enough to make any one take notice. But it's not mere quantity only, but the quality of these sheep that fascinated me. Their great big bodies, magnificent build, and strong constitution are splendid assets. The fleeces show no "rust sweat" or dark-clotted wool fat, but all clean lustrous

white fibers. This is, I believe, not only due to climatic influences prevalent in this part of the country, but a hereditary factor with the sheep themselves, and consequently a barrier against undesirable variations along that line.

"My partiality for these Baldwin sheep may be criticised, but my interest in them should be pardoned because I brought a large number of their ancestors from France across the Atlantic over twenty-five years ago, and I was happy and pleased to see in what good hands and pleasant places their descendants had fallen, and the progress that they had made during the years that had passed."

W. C. Clos.

### THE LAMB SUPPLY AND PRICES

This year's run of native lambs, meaning farm product, has furnished abundant intimation of expansion. It was not an old-style run of bucky, nondescript and otherwise undesirable killing stock by any means, but a crop of lambs of real quality and in excellent condition. For this condition a favorable season was responsible, but, as persistent "raise more sheep" admonition from Washington has been responsible in a large measure for expanding production, so the work of the agricultural colleges and other agencies has aroused farm flock owners to a sense of necessity for improved methods. The farmer has taken the pattern of the western sheepman, applying it to local conditions. He is trimming his lambs, using purebred rams and by assiduous care and liberal rationing producing a set of lambs that vies in character with western product. Serious attention is being given the important matter of internal parasite control. At a sheep growers' meeting at the Illinois Agricultural College recently an entire session was devoted to that subject. Control or suppression of intestinal parasites will render accessible to the sheep industry vast areas of rough pasture land east of the Missouri that are ill-adapted to other agrarian activity and may be acquired at nominal cost. Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio and New York are all expanding farm-flock operations. Down in New England where the tank car, conveying cheap western



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When you want to buy } **SHEEP of any kind**  
 When you want to sell }  
 Write or Wire **H. F. PATTERSON CO.—Sheep Merchant** Billings, Mont.

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**Two large sheep and cattle ranches  
 with or without livestock**

Situated in California and Nevada these  
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One ranch has about 10,000 acres and  
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**THE GERLACH LIVESTOCK CO.**

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Stockton, Calif.

## **THE GROWING COST**

Ten years ago the cost of equipping one unit of a Southern Pacific limited train was \$212,287; a standard box car cost \$1,200; a Pacific type locomotive \$25,000; and the maintenance of main line road \$2,213 per mile.

Today equipment for one unit of a limited train costs more than \$652,000; a standard box car \$2,255; a Pacific type locomotive approximately \$75,000; while the cost of maintaining main line has risen to \$4,082 per mile.

In the seven years since the railroads were returned from government to private control, Southern Pacific has augmented its facilities for service by expenditure of nearly \$263,000,000 of new capital for new construction, rehabilitation of existing lines, new equipment and facilities, and upon improving in many ways the quality and extent of service to the public.

As railroad credit depends upon earnings, and earnings upon rates, it is evident that continued good service depends largely upon the ability of the railroads to earn a fair return upon monies already invested by the public in the essential business of transporting the nation's goods.

## **SOUTHERN PACIFIC**

milk to eastern cities, has paralyzed local milk production, lamb growing is getting serious consideration; Texas is enthusiastic on the subject of wool growing and feeding-lamb production and is also tackling the problem of raising early spring lambs after the Kentucky and Tennessee method. Up in the spring wheat belt, Minnesota and the Dakotas, flat-tire farmers are being injected into the industry by a liberal application of railroad and other capital on the theory that the sheep and its annual progeny will silence the wail of the agrarian hard-lucker. In the aggregate it means vast accession to lamb supply.

This year's run of native lambs is convincing of expanding production. It made its appearance at the market portals in somewhat tardy manner, for which excellent physical conditions all over the country were responsible, but during the September to November period proved to be an effective restraint on prices. Such eastern markets as Buffalo, Jersey City, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Detroit, and a score of lesser points were constantly filled, replenishing local supplies and effectively keeping eastern buyers away from Chicago and other western markets, which in turn enabled the quartette of national packers to dictate terms to the selling side. Fortunately the market was at no time saturated, otherwise price raiding would have been effective, but every gob of native lambs showing up at eastern markets on Monday broke the price. By the end of the week, this depreciation was usually restored, but the process has been repeated in stereotyped manner week after week, so that the mean level of values was held down around the 13½ cent market. It is the old story of heavy Monday runs spoiling the market all week but in this instance the trouble has not originated at Chicago, and no one has ever suggested practicability of control of a supply of native lambs reaching a dozen or more minor markets from a territory extending from the Ohio River to the Great Lakes and from the Mississippi River to Nantucket.

How the poverty ridden farmers of the spring wheat belt are being booked up with prosperity in a relative sense by installment-plan-payment ewe flocks has

been described. Results are shown in the continuous heavy run of Dakota and Minnesota lambs on the South St. Paul market this season and last. Time alone will tell whether this will prove a transient or permanent development. At the moment it is expanding into Montana and Wyoming, the much derided dry farmer having turned his attention to ovine-production effort. With sweet clover and other forage crops lamb-production possibilities in the erstwhile dry farming belt cannot be readily conceived. All over the Dakotas sweet clover is being rapidly installed and as a milk producer it is unexcelled.

Wyoming furnishes an indication of a new trend in lamb production. April and May storms this year took serious toll of the lamb crop, but at shipping time the fall estimates of a shortage ranging from ten to 20 per cent were discredited, railroad loading reports actually coming heavier than in 1926. Investigation showed that while some of the big outfits had lost as much as 25 per cent of their lamb crop, the numerous and rapidly increasing ranchers had not been involved and had delivered not only a full crop but had bred more ewes. If this production trend continues, and it is a logical assumption that it will, more lambs will be available. Small ranch investment in aged ewes in recent years has been heavy and although the period of usefulness of such stock may be short, replacement with home-grown young ewes is a simple matter.

Skeptics will, of course, doubt the permanency of such incursion, but the thing is underway and even if ultimately found to be impractical must run its course. Farm flocks in the spring wheat belt may be ultimately dislodged by such diseases and parasites as ovine flesh, especially under congested conditions, is heir to, but experts are on the job and practicability or otherwise, of control or repression will be demonstrated before failure is admitted. Financial interests behind spring wheat belt investment in sheep will not be easily discouraged. Experience indicates that even in the dry, high-altitude areas of the West sheep run in large bands in fenced pastures lose range immunity to disease and parasites, yet if lamb growing solves the problem of main-

### RIDGECREST HAMPSHIRE



A comparison of both top and general average prices of Hampshire rams obtained at the National Ram Sale for the past several years puts Ridgcrest Hampshires in a class by themselves and establishes them as the Premier Flock of America.

**H. L. FINCH, Owner**  
Soda Springs, Idaho

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(To close an estate)

Good sheep or cattle ranch, 30 miles from Kalispell, Mont. Adjoining Flathead Reservation. Lots of grass, plenty of water. Grazing permit in National Forest nearby. Additional leasable lands adjoining. Liberal terms.

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### SHEEP DOGS

There is no other breed can possibly make such sheep dogs as the White Collie. This we know is absolutely a fact as our years of experience with them tells us so. Puppies for sale, \$10 to \$15. Pamphlet.

**ALVIN C. SKRETTEBERG**  
Shadehill, South Dakota



The Only Successful Lamb Carrier  
on the Market

\$1.50 postpaid

**FRANK OLIVER**  
John Day, Oregon

We can furnish a fine lot of yearling ewes and pairs. Spring delivery.

**DAYBELL LIVESTOCK CO.**  
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Idaho lambs at the top!

International Stock Show winners at Chicago, November 30th include  
Champion Ram on a lamb.

First prize pen of ram lambs.

First prize pen of ewe lambs.

Second prize ewe lamb, and many other places.

All these lambs bred and shown

by

**Thousand Springs Farm**

WENDELL, IDAHO

**MINNIE W. MILLER, Owner**



## HAMPSHIRE

The best mutton sheep. Evidence; the highest-priced car mutton lambs ever sold in the world was a car of Hampshires. The price was 42 cents a pound live weight, having beaten all previous records by \$7 per hundred. When you want sheep you want Hampshires. When you want Hampshires let the American Hampshire Sheep Association send you a dandy little booklet and list of live breeders.

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**COMFORT A. TYLER, Secretary**  
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DIXON, CALIFORNIA

We produce  
a high type  
of Ram-  
bouillet.



A choice lot  
of ewes and  
rams for  
sale at all  
times.

Briggs 1144—Yearling Rambouillet Ewe. Grand Champion Rambouillet Ewe at California State Fair, 1927.

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Membership Fee \$10—No Annual Dues. Flock Books Free to Members. Volumes XXII and XXIII are being bound together and will soon be ready for distribution. Pedigrees now being received for Volume XXV. Over 115,000 sheep on record.

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For history of the breed, list of members, rules, pedigree blanks, etc., address the Secretary.

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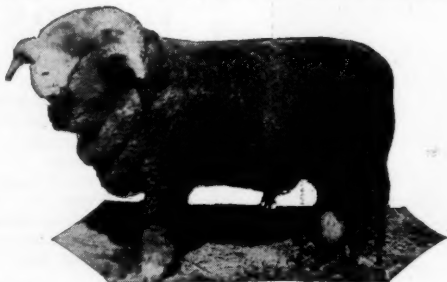
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## BULLARD BROS.

WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

Breeders of Fine Wool Rambouillet Sheep



"Major"—Bullard Bros.' Reserve Champion  
Ram at Chicago International, 1925

Flock Founded in 1875

Correspondence Solicited

F. N. Bullard, Manager

taining a foothold on western land, similar evacuation to that resulting from dry-farming collapse will be illogical. A mass of valuable research on the subject is available and will be invoked by the intelligent element. Thousands may fall out, but other thousands will stick.

The 1928 lamb crop will be substantially larger than the last. Assuming that in Montana and Wyoming this year is not repeated, the entire crop should show a 25 per cent increase on a numerical basis. While it is a fact that few yearling or mature western ewes have been transferred to territory east of the Missouri River this year, many western ewe lambs have gone to the farming area, some to be bred for next spring's lamb crop, others to be carried into the yearling stage. In addition a large number of native ewe lambs have been held back on the farms in a determined countrywide effort to grow more lambs.

This is not written in pessimistic mood, but as the result of observation and is the consensus of trade opinion. During the past summer I have traveled many miles through the corn belt and eastern states by daylight to find the landscape in many sections animated by multiplying farm flocks. On one trip to Ontario within a radius of 150 miles of Toronto, more ewes were seen than that region has ever boasted since it was cleared and every surplus pound of meat is destined for the American market, although Canada's per capita consumption of lamb is rapidly increasing. The Muskoka lamb chop is a standard article on the Ontario restaurant menu, and cooks thereabouts know how to prepare the succulent dish, whereas the average American cook is apparently in a conspiracy to spoil the dish, and that includes the dining car chef whose specialty is ham and eggs.

"We are up against expanding lamb production; the situation can be met only with increased consumption," said Jess Davis, for many years chief for Armour. If a new generation of farm operators is being developed, and it looks that way, present developments within the industry be more or less permanent. At every short course gathering in the farming states during the coming winter sheep breeding and feeding will be conspicuously

of the program. It is an outstanding feature of diversified agriculture propaganda, designed to pull the agrarian hard-luck howler out of the morass of grain raising.

J. E. Poole.

#### BOOK NEWS

##### "The Yankee of the Yards"

by  
LOUIS F. SWIFT

in Collaboration with  
Arthur Van Vliissingen, Jr.  
210 pages. 6 x 9 inches.

Cloth Binding. Published by  
A. W. Shaw Company, Chicago.

Price \$3.00

In the new Shaw book, "The Yankee of the Yards," one reads a story of destiny—and beef. From a small New England butcher to the founder of a meat packing business known and respected throughout the world is the biography of Gustavus Franklin Swift. It is deserving of a place alongside the other great biographies, which fill an important place in world literature.

"Biography" of a recognized big business success is not its only claim to high praise. Written by Louis F. Swift, the son of the great founder, in collaboration with Arthur Van Vliissingen, Jr., it deals with the actual business life of the senior Mr. Swift. It points out the characteristics which typify an outstanding and successful man and reveals a personality which enhanced the value of the strong character he possessed.

Characteristic of the man is the following incident.

One day the ticker tape from the Chicago Board of Trade carried the message that Swift and Company had failed. Within an hour Mr. Swift was on the floor of the Board of Trade—with his heavy fist banging for attention. He got it. "It is reported," he shouted, "that Swift and Company has failed. Swift and Company has not failed. Swift and Company cannot fail." And he strode out in a dead silence.

The reader will learn a lot about business methods from G. F. Swift—how he burst into a bankers' meeting during the Panic of 1893, demanded credit and got it—how he eliminated waste from his industry—"used everything but the squeal"—perfected the first refrigerator cars—and by sheer force of will power made the East buy and like Chicago dressed beef in spite of prejudice and antagonism. These are but a few of the vital business problems that "The Yankee of the Yards" met and conquered—face to face.

The book is packed full of business methods that won success and the story leaves the reader a sense that this Man's progress was inevitable. Yet with all, his personal ability, gluttony for work, unlimited energy and persistency, and his efficient and time-saving use of the abundance of common sense he possessed, destiny presided at his birth. Destiny swept him on to accomplishment extraordinary in any one man's career. His abilities and the world's changing needs came together to produce a career as exceptional as it is interesting.

Filled with incidents of Mr. Swift's actual contact and conversations with employees and business associates, bankers, customers, creditors, the book is easy, swift, and pleasant reading.

## Our 1927 Offerings Are Completely Sold Except

### 100 Lincoln-Rambouillet Ewe Lambs

We have a very choice lot  
of young Rambouillet  
Rams coming on for the  
1928 trade.

*If you like Rambouillets with fine,  
white, crimply wool, good bone, legs  
set well apart, and splendid conformation—*

*We Grow That Kind*

**Day Farms Company**  
PAROWAN, UTAH

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### RAMBOUILLETS

Range Rams Our Specialty

We believe that the big ram  
with a long staple fleece that has  
density and fineness and is free  
from body wrinkles and kemp is  
the ideal ram for the range.

If that is the kind of Rambouillet  
ram you like, see ours.

PUREBRED RANGE RAMS  
REGISTERED STUD RAMS

Small orders or carload lots

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## DELAINE MERINOS

GROW MORE :—: AND :—: BETTER WOOL

And Are the Hardest and Best Rangers in the World

You can range three DELAINE-MERINO ewes on the same feed it takes for two of the larger breeds; they will shear twice as much wool as the other two, and raise blockier lambs, which the trade now demands. Cross your ewes with DELAINE-MERINO BUCKS and get a band of Really Profitable Sheep to run. Will have 200 DELAINE-MERINO BUCKS for 1928 trade. I have for sale now a carload of bred ewes—registered—big smooth ones. Photos free.

Prices Reasonable

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**Breeders of Rambouillets for over twenty years.**

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"Coolidge"—Many times winner and champion  
Grandson of Old 467

### Our 1927 Show Record

Grand Champion Ram at Ogden Stock Show 1927.  
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We have averaged the highest prices at the Great Salt Lake Ram Sale the past four years.

Stud Rams our Specialty. Rams and Ewes at all times.

**John K. Madsen, Prop.**

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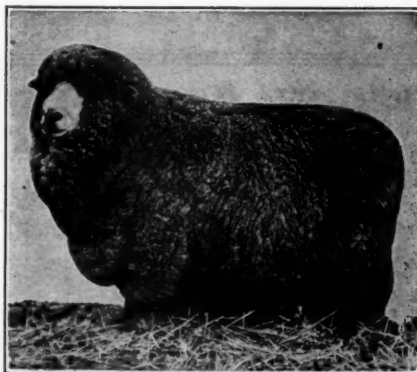
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Home of "I Am"—the \$2000 Lamb

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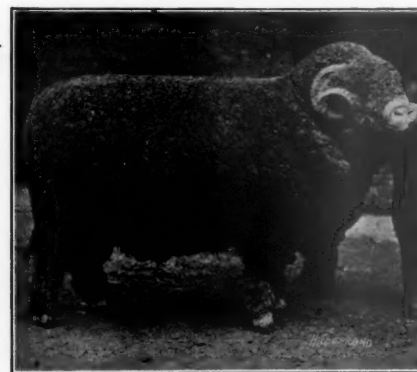
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Undeclared Corriedale Ram at the  
Principal Australian Shows in 1926. Im-  
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Breeders of  
**RAMBOUILLET**  
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**SHEEP**

Of Highest Quality

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RAM

At the American Royal Show in 1926.  
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Stock of Either Breed Sold in Single or Car Lots.



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TAXPAYER



MT. PLEASANT QUEEN

Taxpayer was champion Rambouillet Ram at the Utah State Fair in 1926. Also, winner in 1926 of special prize at the Ogden Live Stock Show for the Rambouillet Ram with the best fleece. Also winner in 1927 of the award for the Rambouillet Ram with the best mutton conformation at the Ogden and Salt Lake Shows and champion again at the Utah State Fair, 1927. Mt. Pleasant Queen was champion Rambouillet Ewe in 1927 at the Salt Lake Show.

We Have Some Large Smooth Rams for Range Purposes. Ewes and Rams in Car Lots or Singly At All Times.

**W. D. CANDLAND & SONS, Mt. Pleasant, Utah**

## ROMNEY SHEEP

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New Zealand can supply your needs in this direction.  
Our Romneys hold the world's Championship.

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the best possible re-  
turn per acre from  
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A Typical New Zealand Romney Ram

Do you want to get  
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**New Zealand Romney Sheep Breeders Association**

The Secretary—P. O. Box 40, Feilding, N. Z.

(INCORPORATED)

# Mount Haggin Hampshires

## 1927

Mount Haggin range rams, both pens 25 yearlings and pens 25 lambs again topped National Ram Sale.

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Mount Haggin range rams sire the winning carload of Western lambs, also 4th Prize carload, at Chicago International, 1927.

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Mount Haggin Hampshires won 37 out of 48 First Prize awards competed for at Pacific International, American Royal, Chicago International, 1926-1927.

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Mount Haggin Hampshires won 18 out of 24 Championships and Reserve Championship places at Pacific International, American Royal, Chicago International, 1926-1927.

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Mount Haggin Hampshires won 43 out of 44 First Prizes competed for at Utah, Montana and Wyoming State Fairs, 1926-1927, and 11 out of 12 Championships.

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Three thousand Hampshire Rams for sale in 1928.

## Mount Haggin Land and Livestock Company

Anaconda, Mont.

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Tom Drummond, George Pretty, Shepherds